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The Magazine for the Christian Home

Hearthstone



- **Living Peaceably on Two Incomes**—*Aubrey B. Haines*
- **Drinking Is Everybody's Business**—*Richard L. James*

NOVEMBER, 1957 – 25c

The Magazine for the Christian Home

Hearthstone

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Are You Like a Dinosaur?

Millions of years ago these creatures inhabited our earth by the score. Today, however, all that remains of the dinosaur are skeletons that you will find mostly in museums. They say that the dinosaur became extinct because he couldn't change with his environment. He refused to adapt himself to new situations.

The spirit of the dinosaur still lives in sedimentary people who let life pass them by because they refuse to adapt themselves to new circumstances. They think nostalgically of "the good old days" and forever remain relics of the past.

In spite of the many undesirable conditions present in the world today, we are still living in the best period of the history of the human race, with new discoveries in science, medicine, travel, education, culture, and all things which give us better lives.

Don't be like a dinosaur!

What's Here? A dual income is not always the answer to more gracious living. Aubrey B. Haines in his article, "Living Peaceably on Two Incomes," shows you some of the problems that can result when both Mom and Dad are bringing home the shekels. Also, he tells you how these hurdles can be overcome. Be sure to read this article, if the problem hits close to home base.

There are music lessons, scouts, PTA, football, Rotary, school activities, and many other worthwhile pursuits which could easily fill up the spare time of every member of the family. Usually, the church gets the little end of the horn, the crumbs of one's time and talents. Jean Louise Smith deals with this problem in an article, "The Family Budgets Its Time." Good reading for all!

The "social drinker" and the alcoholic think that their drinking is no one else's business. But they are wrong, and you as a tax-paying American citizen owe it to yourself to read "Drinking Is Everybody's Business," by Richard L. James.

What's Coming? A special Christmas treat.

Till next month,

S. W.

A LIBRARY—

A Gift from Your Church



The new church school curriculum provides excellent reading material for your children, helping them to grow as Christians.

by Harriet B. Dowdy

Once upon a time not so many years ago a young father was slightly startled when his wife revealed that during the day she had bought a sixty-five dollar set of books for their children, one of whom had that day tasted Junket for the first time (age six months), and the elder of whom was approaching the ripe old age of two! It is foolish, you say, to worry about character-building influences and a selected reading list from nursery years through adolescence, when the major part of early parenthood is devoted to mopping up and picking up. Yet it is not so ludicrous as it might seem. More and more parents, educators, and doctors agree that learning is a continuous process, and that no age is unimportant in the formation of the individual's permanent character.

Indeed, it is just such a conviction that is responsible for the form and content of our new church school curriculum, placing new emphasis on week-long spiritual training in the home, and guiding parents from the first moments of parenthood to lead their children in the way of Jesus Christ. Not only do we have God's ever-appropriate command to Moses, "And these words . . . shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children and talk of them when you sit in your house . . . ," but with our new curriculum, we have leadership which is educationally sound and geared to the developing capabilities and interests of our children.

When we say "new" curriculum, perhaps one of the most attractive features of its newness is its form as a permanent library for the child and his parents. The famed seventeenth century essayist, Bacon, once said, "Knowledge is . . . a rich storehouse for the glory of the Creator, and the relief of man's estate"; and truly, we have in the more than forty-volume Christian library which comes into our homes through the Sunday church school an invaluable "storehouse for the glory of the Creator." The children's take-home books are easy to handle, printed in clear type on good paper, and attractively bound. The pictures included are by artists familiar with childhood experiences and the Bible background of the lesson materials. For young children simple illustrations are selected, while their older brothers and sisters gradually are introduced to more detailed pictures, including famous religious paintings.

If we as parents sometimes are confused by commercial pressures to buy this or that product for our child's health and well-being, we may be equally bewildered when we attempt to select a book which will make a lasting contribution to his religious and moral development. Aware that the young child is almost spongelike in his receptiveness, and that wrong impressions received in the preschool years must be painfully corrected before right ideas can flourish, we are baffled when the salesperson admits to a complete lack of knowledge about what is inside of the cheerful covers before us. Indeed, a well-intentioned grandparent once unwittingly selected as a birthday gift a colorful little volume which set forth a faith entirely different from his own. Yes, we whose children are receiving the new curriculum materials might well heave a sigh of relief; for we are the owners of a Christ-centered library which children absorb wholeheartedly, and which does not confuse little wonderers by contradictory or symbolic interpretations. We *know* that what is learned here is biblically sound and logically comprehensible to our children.

The "new curriculum" is new, too, in that it begins with the birth of the infant. Many pastors and nursery leaders are welcoming the attractive baby book, *Growing in God's Way*, as a gift for new babies of the church. There is guidance for the new parent as he learns to live in a Christlike manner with the new baby in his home. If your church is not now distributing these (and your baby makes you eligible to receive them) materials for the parents

of children under two, ask your pastor and the superintendent of the nursery home roll if they will secure a sample for you.

All materials for the children are developed in accord with the "Objectives for the Christian Education of Children," dealing with the child's concepts and relationships to God, the Bible, the church, Jesus, himself, and others, and treated in increasing detail as the child's horizons widen. These materials are closely graded in a manner which corresponds with the child's progress in the public school. They have been written by persons of religious maturity, who have made a detailed study of the scope of a child's knowledge and social experience at each level of achievement. For instance, while the Bible is basic in every age group, stories selected for the Threes are limited to those which they can understand. Other stories equally lovely are reserved for the more mature understanding of older junior boys and girls who are on the threshold of making their own decisions to accept Christ.

Before looking inside the books which our sons and daughters are bringing home, let us note several "extra" benefits to be derived from their wise use. To have readily available the best in reading matter for our boys and girls helps to create a taste for the best. While some popular comics still may come into our homes, the lure of the sensational and shoddy is minimized. Just as manners and attitudes are caught more than taught, so can be the taste for clean, moral reading materials, if we as parents are alert to our opportunities.

Again, families seeking suitable worship ideas for home use will find much in scripture selections, stories, poems, and music in their children's lessons. These materials may be combined with suggestions in *The Secret Place* or *Hearthstone* for a brief worship service to fit your family's needs. Or again, you may wish to use something from your daughter's kindergarten lesson one time and from your son's junior quarterly at another time.

We have mentioned the materials for parents of children under two, but Mother and Daddy are not left empty handed when Timmy becomes eligible for the nursery class for Twos and receives his own books! Each quarter of the church school year and all the way through the Junior Department, there are helps for parents in understanding their child's potential religious growth and guidance in helping him to achieve it. Also, in each parent's quarterly pamphlet there is definite supplementary help in using the stories which the child has had at church,



in the art of religious conversation at home, and for family projects and good times which capitalize on the foundations laid on Sunday morning. So simple a thing as frolicking in the colorful leaves with Patsy, or helping John build a bird feeding station for the winter months ahead can be a genuine religious experience for the whole family.

At this fall season of the year many parents rejoice in the fine assistance provided for them as they help their children adjust to a new church school teacher or department. Again at Christmas and Easter, you will be grateful for guidance in the wise choice of books, suitable family worship observances, and a truly Christian interpretation of these high days in our Christian calendar. Yes, "A Library—a Gift from Your Church," is for everyone in your house.

The forethought which has gone into the planning of our curriculum committee as they considered the parents' needs is equally apparent in the careful construction of the pupils' materials. Each year's course builds upon what has gone before, starting with the four picture-story books for the two-year-old, *My Home, My Friends, God's Outdoors,* and *My Church.* Three-year-olds have books, also, which recognize the additional year that the child has been growing, and that help him to begin to understand the needs of others at home and at church.

For both nursery groups there is the appealing *Nursery Songs and Rhythms*, compiled by Margaret Crain, which many families will wish to add to their music shelf. Twenty-six of the songs in this book have been recorded. The record, *Nursery Songs and Rhythms*, would be a fine addition to your collection. A copy of the song book is packaged with the record, which is available from the publishers of this magazine.

While the nursery child has become secure in feeling "I am important," the kindergarten youngster learns to recognize that "*you* are important, too," and his lesson materials reflect this change. Added to stories about home, church, and God's wonderful world, are units on friends far and near. Again there are splendid teaching pictures, and in recent months there has become available, *Kindergarten Songs and Rhythms* for use at home and at church. There are, too, activity materials closely geared to the lesson stories. Frequently, it may be your happy privilege to help your child complete these projects—another tie in strengthening family relationships.

With the primary years greater Bible content is added, and material is more factual, with the prime purpose of winning the child to Christ when he shall have sufficiently "increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." For each year in the Primary Department there is included more than two months' emphasis on the world mission of the church and our denominational outreach. Primary "alumni" cherish for years the native villages which they construct depicting mission fields. They speak in terms of closest friendship of children halfway around the world to whom they have sent mitten trees or mission boxes.

The junior curriculum covers the closing years of childhood and prepares the way for a fuller understanding of the Christian faith. As an example, the fall quarter commenced for juniors with the study of "Getting Acquainted with Our Bible," "Bibles of Long Ago and Now," and "The Bible, a Book for Everyday Living," in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades, respectively. As your Jewish neighbors prepare for Succoth or the Feast of the Passover, your junior child will add to his information about our Christian festivals an appreciation for the heritage of Judaism which has contributed so much to our Christian background. In so doing he learns to respect the faith of the next door neighbor and friends at school. *My Bible Guide*, with the accompanying work packet, is a junior-level blueprint for seven-day-a-week Christianity prepared in a manner that wins the praise of both boys and girls and their elders.

Would you grow Christians at your house? Add your name to the myriad Hearthstone families who are weaving the content and spiritual essence of their children's church school curriculum into the fabric of daily living every day in the year.

Children's sensitive, impressionable minds are easily influenced by books. That is why it is important for children to read wholesome, worthwhile material, such as the new curriculum.

—photo by erb

LIVING PEACEABLY on two incomes

A dual income in the family should cut the financial burden in half, you say. Alas, it doesn't always work that way.

by Aubrey B. Haines

It used to be said that a woman's place is in the home. To be a good mother and a devoted wife, a woman had all she could do to occupy herself with home duties. Today, however, many women are finding it necessary to work away from home, for a single paycheck will scarcely meet the needs of a white-collar class family. Now it would seem that having two incomes in one household would solve the problems of family finances, and in a way it does. The trouble is, however, that many more problems frequently arise when the wife takes on an outside job, and they bear discussion here:

Take the case, for example, of Tom and Sarah Bradshaw. Tom makes sixty-five dollars a week, and he and Sarah pay seventy-five dollars a month for their apartment in the suburbs. Food is their greatest expense; then there are clothes, too. When Tom courted Sarah, he felt that the best was none too good for her, and he thought nothing of spending ten or fifteen dollars a night for dinner and entertainment. So Sarah got into the habit of expecting such a romance to continue—even after marriage—and the couple found that in order to keep up this life, they would both have to work

At the end of the first year of their marriage, Sarah wanted to have a child, but Tom thought that his wife should continue her job. Otherwise, they might have to refuse social invitations and miss out on many things. Sarah consented and worked a second year; but having spent practically all the two of them made the second year, they had no savings to depend upon if Sarah should quit work. Now, at the end of ten years of married life, Sarah is really anxious to stop work. In fact, she did, but she and Tom do not get along very well. There seems to be no way for Tom to earn enough to support the family that they would like to raise. What is the trouble?

At the outset, let us admit that it is not having two paychecks within the same household. Woman's place may be in the home, especially when her young ones must be looked after every moment of the day; but the Bradshaw's have never really learned how to save nor to spend their money wisely. Even when the two of them were working, their income was spent on things which left nothing to show for it. Entertainment and v a c a t i o n trips seemed to occupy most of their spare time. They really learned nothing about how to grow closer as husband and wife nor about the responsibilities required of living a happily married life.

Many married couples today tend to live too highly, to overextend their credit, and to go into debt. I know of a neighboring couple with four children who recently bought a vacuum sweeper, paying more than $100 for it. Yet they have neither a rug nor a carpet in their house. If a husband and wife had an income of $125 or more a week, they could now have many things that they were not able to buy when wages were lower and times were much harder. This may seem all the more important to them if they are traveling with a social group which lives highly.

"My two brothers and their wives," a woman recently said, "think nothing of going out for an evening and spending forty dollars among them." Yet it was scarcely apparent either to them or to her that they could not actually afford it. Living as they do in Southern California, where

the metropolitan area offers night clubs, movies, stage shows, and sports events—all at high prices—they can soon spend twice a day's earnings, not including dinner and transportation.

Yet both of her brothers' families were living in upstairs apartments which did not even include a garage for their cars. They were behind in some of their payments on various household appliances that they were trying to buy. It was scarcely an exaggeration when a religious weekly journal said during the second World War: "If inflation gets worse, we shall have to abandon our necessities. If it keeps getting worse, we shall have to give up our luxuries. And if it gets still worse, we shall have to abandon our vices."

It is as dangerous to use the income of both husband and wife for living expenses as it is to overextend one's credit. When two paychecks come into the same family, they should be used for different purposes. After the two incomes have been totaled and the couple has paid its tithe to the church, the husband's check should naturally go for food, clothing, rent, public utilities, and various current expenses.

The wife's salary should be earmarked for special investments. These may include a down payment on a house, new furniture or household appliances, or saving in the bank for anticipated children, their education, and their needs. When a wife's paycheck is added to her husband's income and both applied to current expenses, the couple becomes accustomed to living at an inflated standard. What one becomes used to, he frequently finds difficult to overcome—even by necessity.

For example, if Bill and Mary earn fifty dollars apiece each week and they put their earnings together for current expenses, that would mean that $100 weekly would be available for food and utilities, as well as for clothes, transportation, recreation, and entertainment. The church, consequently, would possibly receive little or nothing. Luxuries come high, and indulging in a few leads to a desire for more and more. The couple may never get to the place where the wife can quit her job and have children. The letdown from $100 to fifty dollars a week for current expenses would tend to make both husband and wife feel deprived at the curtailment of pleasures and luxuries to which they were formerly accustomed.

This is where their combined paychecks begin to work mischief in the home. The wisest solution, then, is to budget the husband's paycheck and live within that single income for all normal household expenses. The advantages,

(*Continued on page* 28)



When both Mother and Father work, Father's salary should be used for basic necessities, such as food, rent, and clothing. Mother's salary should be salted away for the children's education, a new home, a vacation trip, or "a rainy day." If properly used, a dual income can give a family many pleasures that they would not ordinarily be able to afford.

—Harold M. Lambert

by Jean Louise Smith

The Family Budgets

Psychologists and educators write about it. Parents bewail and despair of it. Ministers preach about it. It is one of the most puzzling problems that families face today. There is no doubt about it—there are too many tempting things competing for one's time! This is true from first grade to old age, and family life is frequently threatened because the various members are so busy outside the home.

The other side of the problem can be seen through the eyes of the church. I sat in a minister's study the other day, and we were discussing some of the problems of maintaining an interesting and worthwhile program for junior high and senior high school young people in the church. His was a fairly large church in a thickly populated district which was part residential and part industrial.

"Our work with children is booming—growing so fast that we can't keep up with it. Then as soon as the children are out of the Junior Department, serious difficulties begin. Attendance in groups for junior and senior highs drops alarmingly. We've tried many different kinds of activities, scheduled at various times during the week. But we always find that the young people have so many demands on their time that the church gets the leftovers," this minister said.

It is not just the youth who are affected. Everyone has this problem. For Christians the competing activities are usually worthwhile. There are extracurricular school affairs if one is young. Parents have a certain obligation and desire to take part in school activities in which their children are involved. Then there are clubs of various kinds—worthwhile clubs. There are time-consuming, but fascinating, pursuits of hobbies and crafts, cultural activities, and sports. There is apparently no end to the list of things in which to participate these days.

Where does the church come into this picture? How much time should a Christian give to his church? Are there ways to arrive at a decision that will help one to know what proportion of time really should go to the church? These are questions that the Christian family is asking and weighing carefully, so that they may "sort out" these demands on the lives of the individuals within the family unit.

What Can You Give?

"I've never thought of it that way," a teen-ager said when a church group leader spoke to him about using his flair for music for the church.

A young mother, very busy with two small children, had laid her training and ability for leadership on the shelf, saying that she couldn't get away from home to do church work.

Each of these people had a special and unique contribution for the church, and yet the church did not have the benefit of their talent. These two cases call to mind similar ones which are familiar to every pastor. All too often, when such a person is approached, the reply is, "I simply have too much else to do and cannot see my way clear to help in the church." This is one of the tragedies of church work today, as any minister will tell you.

Families need to face this and discuss it together. In talking over the matter of budgeting time, families might well think how each person's gift or talent may be a criterion for helping him to know if he is giving enough time and the right kind of time to the church. If one is asked to serve in a place where his talent or ability is not particularly suited, perhaps it is best to say, "I'd rather be helping with

Its Time



—*A. Devaney, Inc.*

There are many worthwhile activities in which one can participate. Nevertheless, the church should be given a rightful allotment of time in a person's schedule.

the music," or "I can't do that, but I'd be glad to baby sit for Mrs. Brandon or Mrs. Speer who are both experienced teachers." The church needs workers and group members of all ages who have something special to give—who will dedicate their talents, abilities, and interests to the church.

Time Is Like Money

Another way in which families may look at the problem is to realize that time is like money, and to put it to work most effectively, it has to be budgeted carefully. Like money, there simply doesn't seem to be enough to go around. Families can help each person to think and weigh the manner in which he is spending his time. Does it go chiefly to the family or to the school? Are there enough social, spiritual, and cultural activities which add to individual and family life, enlarging and enriching it? Perhaps individuals are spending too much time outside the home and the school and need to face the problem of working out a balance of family, social, educational, cultural, and spiritual activities.

Jim, a junior in high school, was trying to work out this problem. When his minister spoke to the youth group about budgeting time, it took only a few moments for Jim to arrive at the conclusion that his school friends were absorbing all of his social life.

"But I don't really know any of the church crowd," he said. "Only two of them go to my high school." Then he laughed sheepishly. "I guess that's a feeble argument! I need to know some fellows and girls outside of my school group. It would be good for me, I guess." So he decided to go to more church affairs, and he was soon enjoying them immensely.

A mother suddenly realized that she was staying at home too much. "I'll grow one-sided this way," she thought. So she talked it over with the rest of the family, and they encouraged her to offer her services to teach in the Sunday church school, helping her to work out a Sunday morning schedule so that she could be away from home for two hours.

Thus, the family group can help each member of the family to work out balanced time allotments. Even so, each person has to be the one to correct his particular situation.

What Do You Prize Most?

It is helpful to discuss as a family such matters as the two criteria just described. Even more important, they can talk over this question: What do we each value most in life? What do we hold most dear—most precious? What will endure and make us persons who are spiritually dynamic, close to God, and out-reaching to others? It is when each person arrives at the realization that through the church he taps sources for spiritual growth and can express his faith in action, that each can decide how much time should be given to the church. The working out of a "time budget" then becomes a personal matter based on individual talent and, above all, a recognition of the place of the spiritual in life.

—*Illustration by John R. Steiger*



Wha

By the time she had finished presenting her arguments, she had almost convinced me that the plan had been mine from the start. I gave up.

Cathy and I have been married for several years. On our anniversary she sometimes speaks proudly of the actual number, although ordinarily she doesn't care to have me give an exact count. We get along better than the average couple. Before we were married, Cathy was a secretary in a big office. Therefore, she realizes that men are better fitted than women to make the big decisions, and she leaves them to me.

For my part I leave the household management to her as much as possible. Occasionally, I can't resist the impulse to get the household on a more businesslike basis and do make a suggestion. Cathy never gets mad about those suggestions. Usually, she says, "What Father does is always right."

That "what Father does is always right" is from one of the fairy stories that our eight-year-old daughter Betty and five-year-old son Bugs like to have their mother tell them. One of their other favorite fairy stories almost proved to be my undoing.

I work for the Benfield Industries and have done quite well for them. I had been manager of our local office for about a year when a lucky deal I made with the Blake Company put me in line for a really big promotion.

Our firm had been trying to get some of the Blake business for a long time. I had called on Mr. Blake a couple of times. Even though I hadn't been able to budge the old codger, I had taken a liking to him. Both of us have flower gardens. Mine is a small corner in our back yard, while his is almost a farm; but it was a point of common interest, and we became quite friendly.

One evening I saw an article in the paper about him and his flower garden. The article praised him highly.

"I'll bet Mr. Blake is pleased about this article," I told Cathy, showing it to her. "I'd like to call him and congratulate him."

"Why don't you?" she asked.

"He'd think I was polishing the old apple." I spoke quietly, reminding myself that Cathy had been out of the business world several years and had forgotten how carefully one had to watch appearances.

"You thought about calling him and didn't think that such a call might help your business, did you?" she asked in that tone women always use when they think they are being logical.

"When I first thought of calling him," I agreed. "But on second thought I knew how it would seem to him."

by Francis L. Kroll

Father Does Is Always Right

"You men," she protested, "always afraid someone will misunderstand your motives. I'd call him and let him think what he pleases."

I should have told her to manage the household affairs and leave business matters to me. Instead I let her argument sway me into believing that what I wanted to do was right. I called Mr. Blake and complimented him. I believe he was more pleased that I had noticed the article and bothered to call him than he was about the article itself.

The next time I went to call on Mr. Blake, I found that I had made a mistake in following Cathy's advice. He barely listened to my sales talk and continually tried to shift the talk to flowers. I did the best I could to keep the talk on business and got away as soon as I could. It was just a stroke of luck that shortly after that Mr. Blake became dissatisfied with services of our rival and gave our firm part of his business. We did so well that we soon had all of his business, which was why Mr. Hethington was coming to see me.

Mr. Hethington is the Benfield Industries vice-president in charge of personnel. I knew that he was coming to look me over personally before deciding whether or not I should be promoted to the home office.

Before the date of Mr. Hethington's arrival, I had a serious talk with Cathy. It is common knowledge in the Benfield organization that Mr. Hethington looks carefully into every phase of a man's life before recommending him for a big promotion. I explained to her that Mr. Hethington would expect to be invited to our house for dinner.

"A man in Mr. Hethington's position is sure to believe that 'children should be seen and not heard,' " I warned her. "Be sure you have them on their good behavior."

She agreed that she would warn the children to be less boisterous, but she wouldn't agree to give up the family hour.

"Let him see us as we are," she insisted. "If the Benfield Company is going to tell us how we are to conduct our home, you ought to be looking for a new job."

It took me a while to find my voice. The idea of giving up my job where I was doing so well was unthinkable. Fortunately, before I spoke, I realized that Cathy had misunderstood my suggestion. I tried to explain to her that the company wasn't dictating our personal affairs. "It's just that a rowdy household will make a bad impression on Mr. Hethington," I ended my argument.

I should have avoided the subject from the start. Cathy didn't fly into a tantrum. She didn't weep. As calmly as a lecturer telling a P.T.A. group the facts of child guidance, she reviewed our plans for our home. She insisted that a man smart enough to be vice-president of the Benfield Company would see through it if we staged a special family exhibition for him and that we would be better off if we followed our regular routine.

By the time she had finished presenting her arguments, she had almost convinced me that the plan had been mine from the start. I gave up.

My day at the office with Mr. Hethington went off well, but I was uneasy as he and I drove toward our house. On the drive, he told me of the new house that he had built. As he described it, I saw how shabby our bungalow was going to look to him.

We had intended to buy a new house like all the other young couples were doing; but Cathy had accidentally run across an article which pointed out that in some cases it was better to buy an older house. The writer of this article had very convincingly pointed out that in some cities older houses were selling below their actual value. More to please Cathy than for any other reason, I agreed to look at some older houses. We found one that was plainly a bargain and I was ready to buy it; but Cathy hesitated. She was afraid that I didn't really think it was a showy enough place for the m a n a g e r of the Benfield branch. I firmly explained the financial advantage of buying the house, and she reluctantly agreed.

It had been a good investment. It was a substantial, comfortable house. Other people had taken a liking to the neighborhood, and property values were higher. If I did get the promotion, we would be able to sell the house at a profit. As Mr. Hethington and I approached it, however, I saw it through the eyes of a man who had just built a new house. It

didn't look so good as it had before.

"Fine house," Mr. Hethington said as we turned in the driveway, and seemed to mean it. "A homey place to raise a family."

The evening started off well. Both Betty and Bugs acknowledged their introduction to Mr. Hethington properly. Bugs even refrained from blurting out one of his choice bits of repartee which he had picked up from his hero, "Dennis the Menace."

In spite of my efforts to divert her, Cathy brought up her pet subject of the bad conditions under which secretaries worked. Oddly enough, Mr. Hethington agreed with her on many points. He even conceded that most of them were underpaid.

It wasn't long until Bugs decided that the table talk had become too adultish and he was being left out. "Do you know the story of the Three Bears, Mr. Hethington?" he demanded.

"Is Goldilocks in that story?" Mr. Hethington asked. I knew what was coming. I tried to break into the conversation, but Cathy was ahead of me.

"That's the one," she said. "I'm sure Mr. Hethington knows it."

"Then we could act it out," Bugs exclaimed enthusiastically. "While Mom's doing the dishes, Daddy could be the Mama Bear, you could be the Papa Bear, and I could be the Little Boy Bear."

"Sounds like it would be fun," Mr. Hethington agreed with what I knew was politeness, but Bugs interpreted as eagerness.

I looked imploringly at Cathy, but she ignored me. I knew how much of a fuss Bugs would put up if I displayed my authority as head of the house and vetoed the game. Cathy should have suggested a substitute.

"I'll do the dishes," I offered weakly, feeling that I must look inefficient in Mr. Hethington's eyes. "Mother can be Mama Bear. She'll do it much better."

"I should do the dishes," Mr. Hethington said. "It's been so long since I acted out a story that I'm likely to spoil the whole thing."

"We'll all do the dishes," Cathy said brightly. "Then all of us can take part in the game."

I would have fallen through the floor if it had been possible. Asking vice-president James B. Hethington to help with the dishes as though he were an old family friend or a favorite uncle. I'll give him credit. He was a good sport. He didn't give the least sign that he was surprised or displeased.

Many times in the past when Cathy had organized the family group in this way, it had been fun. She always managed it so that each of us had a part. This time Mr. Hethington was assigned to dry the silverware as matter of factly as I was assigned to put the dishes away. Mr. Hethington put on so good an act that I almost believed he was enjoying himself.

I tried to get Cathy aside to tell her to call off that silly game. If I hadn't known her so well, I would have been sure she was trying to avoid me. The moment the dishes were done, Bugs, ably assisted by Betty, herded all of us into the parlor.

"You get to be the Papa Bear, Mr. Hethington," Bugs told him generously. "Daddy gets to play the part all of the time. He can be the director this evening."

The play got underway dramatically enough. Bugs frowned a little when Mr. Hethington in the role of Papa Bear announced in an ordinary voice that his soup was too hot. I was relieved that Bugs politely stifled the impulse to correct the guest. The three bears went to one corner of the room. Bugs reluctantly accepted that as a walk into the woods. I was surprised that he didn't insist upon a realistic walk around the house.

Betty was convincing as Goldilocks. She tasted the three bowls of soup and emptied the little one. She fell out of the little rocker so dramatically that I was afraid she had actually broken it. The divan was first Papa Bear's too hard, Mama Bear's too soft bed, and finally Little Bear's just right one where Goldilocks fell asleep. I suppose I was the only one who noticed that Goldilocks occasionally opened her eyes to see what the three bears were doing.

The return of the bears was successful until Papa Bear complained that someone had been tasting his soup. This time Bug's feeling for the theater, overshadowed his duty as host.

"He says it was down deep like this," Bugs corrected, not quite keeping the scorn out of his voice. "Somebody's been eatin' my soup."

Evidently, Bugs's voice wasn't quite deep enough to convey his meaning to Mr. Heathington. At least when Papa Bear repeated his line, Bugs turned despairingly to me.

"Show him how it's done, Pop," Bugs ordered.

I felt my face burning. Everyone in the Benfield Company knew the need for tact when differing with the vice president. I remembered how easily Cathy could have saved me from this embarrassing situation by stopping the game before it got started.

"Somebody's been eating my soup," I roared in my deepest, angriest voice.

Mr. Hethington laughed as heartily as the others. "Fine," he said. "I'm remembering the way it goes."

His pronouncement about his chair won the applause of the critical Bugs. The game went on to an hilarious finish. At the conclusion I frantically signaled for Cathy to get the youngsters off to bed. She and Betty were too busy congratulating Mr. Hethington on his acting success to pay any attention to me. With a sinking heart I realized that there was almost a half hour left before bedtime.

"Daddy, go on with your story," Bugs insisted, climbing onto my lap.

"Mr. Hethington is our guest tonight," I reminded him. "It wouldn't be polite for me to spend my time telling you a story instead of talking to him."

(*Continued on page* 28)

Drinking Is Everybody's Business





by Richard L. James

Many persons have been bluffed into thinking that they are not concerned with whoever drinks. Probably, they have been told by some drinking person,

"It's my business if I drink. If it hurts me, I'm only hurting myself, and that is my business." A peaceful person frequently turns away from such declarations to avoid an argument over the matter.

The question still arises, however: "Isn't it my business who drinks?" If my next door neighbor drinks, isn't it some of my business? If Daddy becomes an alcoholic, are not the children affected? If the bus driver drinks, do not the patrons care for their safety? If a bank teller were drinking, would not the depositors of the bank take note of it? If your reactions to the above questions have been in the affirmative, then you feel as I do that drinking is the business of us all. While some may maintain that they have a right to drink, still no thoughtful person can say today that "It is nobody's business if I drink."

If I own a home or any other property and pay taxes, it is my business who drinks. Father John L. Thomas, director of St. Louis University's Institute of Social Order, is reported by Associated Press of January 31, 1953, as having studied 7,000 marriage cases in a midwest diocese. Accounting for more than half the divorce cases were drink and adultery, according to Father Thomas. Drink alone caused more than one-fourth (29.8%) of the marital difficulties.

"How does this affect me?" you are asking. Well, here is the answer. Every time a divorce (caused by drinking) comes before a court, the tax money of that community is being used to procure that divorce. The drinker alone does not pay for the court system; that bill is paid for by us all. It is my business who gets divorces and uses the court's time; and when that time is consumed by those who are brought there by drink, I am forced to be concerned with drinking.

The matter does not stop with the divorce court. It would be so much simpler if it did. The tragedy is that too many broken marriages involve children. An increasing number of such children must be cared for by benevolent and charitable organizations or become wards of the welfare departments. The support of a child in a benevolent home runs into a sizable figure for a period of a year. As a contributor to the religious homes and as a tax payer, I am involved in the cost of maintaining the children who have been cast onto society by those who have become victims of alcohol. If you drink and have a family, it surely becomes the business of everyone in the community.

The company which carries the liability insurance upon my automobile seems to think that it is my business who drinks. With the copy of my insurance policy for the coming year, I received a leaflet with large lettering of the following words:

"The public could do something about the growing cost of auto liability insurance . . ."

The article, which is a reprint from an editorial in the San Francisco *Chronicle*, continues, ". . . rates are determined by the loss experience . . . loss experience is determined by the way drivers drive . . . and the way juries award damages. The increase in the cost of driving an automobile resulting from the hike in liability insurance costs announced by insurers last week adds to almost everyone's cost of living; but this is one case of inflation in which the victim can blame nobody but himself."

When paying insurance on an automobile, you begin to realize that you are responsible for the way that other people drink. You may not care to change their ways of driving, but you have to pay for the way that they drive. You may not care about them, but it costs you just the same.

Here is the way it operates: The more persons drive while intoxicated, the greater the accident rate. The more accidents, the higher the rate of insurance. That drinking drivers are responsible for a large amount of this increase, no informed person will deny. In the city of Cleveland, Ohio, a ten-year study was made by Dr. S. R. Guber on the relationship of alcohol to accidents. He discovered that alcohol was evident in more than 50 per cent (50%) of auto fatalities. To the surprise of some it was discovered that the greatest number of killers at the wheel were the so-called "moderate drinkers."

In Dallas, Texas, DWI cases diminished appreciably when the new district attorney announced that any person arrested with evidence of being influenced by alcohol would be sent to jail for it. The thought of such a future caused many persons to make arrangements to have others drive them home when planning to attend drinking functions. We could afford to go a step further. It should be as great a penalty to have caused an accident while intoxicated as to have caused it while sober. A person may not know what he is doing while intoxicated, but he knows what he is doing when he drinks without making plans to stay away from behind the wheel of his car during this period of intoxication.

A few years ago, I went to my physician for relief for a temporary severe pain. He said,

"I advise you to call your wife to come drive you home, because you will be unsafe to drive after I give you this shot." I could have been stubborn like many drinkers I have known and said, "Oh no, I can take care of myself." The doctor knew differently, however. He is supposed to know what the human body can and cannot do. The same is true about alcohol. It surely is no secret what a human body can do under the effects of alcohol. Therefore, it is only common sense to expect a drinker to make preparations for someone to do his driving while he drinks. Having failed to make such precautions, he must be held responsible for his negligence.

A man came to talk about his family situation because his wife was suing for divorce. Much of his complaint centered about his charge that she was spending most of her afternoons in taverns drinking with her friends. Several days later I went by the home to see the wife about the problem. Strangely enough, she laid the same charges against him. Each one was doing that which could not be tolerated in the other, but which was reserved as a special privilege for self. This and many other experiences have led me to conclude that if you are a married person, it is your business who drinks.

If a husband, though a non-drinker, is thrown into association either in his work or in recreation with those who drink, the trend is in the direction of his drinking eventually. He may be able to overcome the pressure of the group for most of the time and even survive completely, but the trend is against it. The pressure which is put upon an individual to conform to the mores of the group with which he identifies himself is a powerful force. It should never be underestimated. When the husband takes that first drink, it becomes the concern of his entire family, for the first drinkers drift over into the class of problem drinkers, and the problem drinkers become the alcoholics. The movement is alarming in our country. There are 200,000 persons annually who become the problem drinkers (persons who need two or three bracers a day), and there are 50,000 persons who become alcoholics each year. The place to become concerned about drinking is at the level of the first and second drinks. The persons who never take the first drink will not become the problem drinkers nor the alcoholics. The person who says and believes, "I can handle my liquor," is really the person to become concerned about.

It should be said here that the church has a great contribution to offer the drinker in its program of social and recreational activities. The power of prayer and faith need not be underestimated when we say that the church offers the person a change of associations and thus breaks the power of social drinking. Men's groups, women's organizations in the church, church school classes, as well as various youth groups associated with the church, make possible the protection of individuals from the pressures of group drinking. A person coming into the church with a conversion experience and an earnest attempt to stop drinking must realize that there may be others in the church who are having the same struggle as himself. He must, therefore, guard against either judging them too harshly if they fail and at the same time seeing to it that he is not the temptation which causes them to stumble again.

A technique to follow here is to stay with the group and not to be too hasty to form intimate friendships within the church. The danger is that persons of like background will tend to be drawn together by their past experiences. Thus, two persons in the church who have resolved to stop drinking will strike up a friendship. This is sometimes unfortunate. To have two persons struggling with the same temptations thrown together may be the means of defeating both of them. On the other hand the ex-drinker should seek association with one who has never had this weakness, so that the temptation will not be brought before him and that the past may be forgotten as much as possible.

When thought is given to the matter, it becomes apparent that drinking is the business of us all. The driving of our cars, paying taxes, family associations, church membership, sending children to school, running a home, or hundreds of other activities are affected by those who drink. It is a community problem, and the responsibility for its control cannot be lightly shrugged off by anyone.

Whether you are a young person away at college, in the armed forces, working in another town, or established in a home of your own,

by Roy Hanson

DON'T DIVORCE YOUR PARENTS

"Writing a letter?"

Bill looked up from his letter to cast a backward glance over his shoulder. Jack, his slender, dark-haired roommate, was sitting on the edge of his bed with a ball bat across his knees and a polishing cloth in his hand. "Just a little letter to the folks," Bill answered. He turned again to his desk.

"Needing some money?"

Bill's head came up quickly. He felt defensive, but was not sure why. "Yes, I'm afraid so. I hate to ask them for money, but my summer earnings aren't quite going to cover the expenses of starting another fall term. How did you know?"

Jack laughed softly, as he always did when he was going to say something which might hurt. "You can take what I have to say with a grain of salt if you want to," that soft laugh suggested.

Bill grinned, but without hiding an inner apprehension. "O.K., out with it, you old fortune teller. How did you know I was in need of cash?"

"You said you were writing to your folks. Do you ever write them except when you need money?"

Bill felt his muscles go tense. He quickly turned his face back to the desk again in an attempt to hide the redness which he could feel rising to the roots of his hair. He was not angry. Jack had a right to say this. Bill could imagine that a fellow who had been without a mother and father almost as long as he could remember might think it odd that a roommate who had two fine parents was not interested in communicating with them. But what in the world could he communicate with them about? What did this new college life of his have to do with their prosaic, small-town existence and the little cleaning establishment which was their work in the world?

He let his eyes roam around the room. On one wall was the school pennant. It stood for something which meant a lot to him, but how could the folks understand anything about that? Right above the desk were his press clippings. BILL TURNER PITCHES SHUTOUT AGAINST SOUTHERN. This also was a part of the new life, not the old. Beside the desk were the textbooks. These books helped train him for a field which his folks had discouraged him from entering. The books discussed subjects completely foreign to small town people like Bill's parents. Once he had tried to take his father into the pages of these books through conversation. The only response that he had gotten was, "Well, you're beyond me, son." Bill remembered that. He remembered it well. Finally, he turned again to Jack. Even his best friend now was completely a part of Bill's new life, and had nothing to do with the old.

"Jack, it's not that I don't want to be closer to the folks, I would like very much to be, but *how?*"

Bill is the typical representative of young men and women making their first main break from the old family pattern. Some young people go away to college. Others find jobs in different towns, join the armed forces, or start a home of their own.

Many young persons, while still living at home, develop a double feeling toward their parents. They live with their parents, love them, depend upon them, and share their concerns and problems. Because they are individuals and have ideas of their own, however, young persons don't always agree with their parents. They come to resent some restrictions which are imposed upon their freedom by their parents.

When a young person like Bill leaves home, some radical changes take place in these double feelings toward his parents. Some fortunate young people find that their feelings of resentment leave them almost entirely. They have matured into the freedom which they have been striving toward all along. Now that their parents no longer represent restrictions

upon this freedom, the resentment which they once felt disappears. In many cases this clears the way for them to deepen the bonds of understanding and good will between their parents and themselves. They find that they can be more open and sincere, more relaxed and at ease with their folks than ever before, even though now their contacts with their parents must be confined to letters, occasional phone conversations, and visits.

Other young persons, like Bill, find the problem more difficult to solve. They may retain a resentment because they feel that their folks are still trying to exercise authority over their decisions, or because the resentment has been deeply rooted in the subconscious mind and continues for no reason at all. Some young people feel that their entire relationship with their folks has been cut off by separation. The old basis for communication is gone, and they are at a loss to know what to put in its place. As a result, they loose contact with their parents.

All this suggests that the real reasons why Bill finds it hard to maintain any close contact with the home folks are probably not the reasons which he gives. The chances are that the real reasons are to be found somewhere in that double feeling which Bill has had toward his folks during recent years, and in what happened to that double feeling when he left home. Bill should be honest enough to look within himself for the reasons instead of trying to find them in circumstances.

Let us say that Bill locates the source of his lack of communication in his own feelings and deals with them in a constructive way through meditation and prayer, and through his other resources as a Christian. He will no longer need to excuse his behavior by blaming his circumstances. He will be free to discover that the things which he felt made a close relationship to the folks impossible are actually the very things on which such a relationship can be built.

For example, the school pennant—does it stand for something that the folks cannot understand? There are few things of more interest to parents than the school, the business organization, the military base, or the new home in which their son or daughter is intimately involved. Just plain news about "what the place is like" is good basis for communication. This is the kind of news for which most parents are starved.

The press clippings are symbols of things well-done. Modesty or no modesty, news of things well-done should be passed along to the folks. If Bill considers that bragging, he has failed to realize that his parents had a big part in making him what he is. Telling them of an achievement is not bragging. It is simply sharing the victory with the rest of the team. Most parents are more concerned about the achievements of their young people than about achievements of their own. To tell them about "press clippings" is the most natural thing in the world. To keep it from them deprives them of one of life's greatest joys.

Those books of Bill's represent all the new and different ideas, facts, and theories which come to persons in connection with a new occupation and environment. Most young persons are probably just like Bill. They try once to share these new thoughts with the folks. Then, when they meet something other than the greatest enthusiasm, they give it up as a lost cause. The fact is that parents are interested in one thing above all ideas, facts, theories. They are interested in productive love within the family. Sometimes new ideas, suddenly presented, give them an impression that their young folks are slipping away from them into some new world. Understandably they react at first with some hesitancy, fear, or bewilderment. A young person who can accept this first reaction for what it is and continue to share the things that he is thinking can overcome this problem. Such a young person can soon get across the impression that he is not letting new ideas cause him to drift away from his parents, but is using them as a means of communication. It is the rare parent who does not respond positively to this quite soon.

This is not to say that parents will simply accept all of a young person's new ideas and wonder why

Meet college student Bill. He writes to his folks like a dutiful son—but only when he needs money.

—photo by erb



they hadn't thought of them before. It is to say that they will take pleasure in listening to what their young people are thinking these days. If they have had ideas of their own on the subject, they will probably discuss them. This is wholesome. The young people who have to pit their new ideas against old ones in fair discussion are the ones who come out with the best understanding of their interests and concerns. Honest and frank communication with parents thus can make a real contribution to the education and development of young people, as well as to the genuine fellow-feeling between them and their parents.

The calendar in Bill's room has a lot to do with the folks. Somewhere on that calendar is the date of their anniversary. That date should be circled. What makes a couple happier than to have their grown children remember their anniversary? Then there are the other dates which call for a card, package, telegram, or phone call. The calendar can remind Bill of those dates.

Finally, there are new friends like Jack, Bill's roommate. Bill was especially blind, since Jack had no folks of his own, not to see the connection between his new friend and his parents. There are always week ends and vacations, leaves and furloughs. Few things bring a young person closer to his parents than to share his parents with a friend. Bringing someone from your new environment back into your old home is one of the best ways to fuse the two aspects of your life creatively into one.

Communication is not a one-way street. Once Bill feels free to share his own life with the folks at home, he should also be free to appreciate what they have to share of theirs. The fact is that the "prosaic" life back home would probably not seem so prosaic and uninteresting to young people if they would just give their parents a chance to share it with them.

When Bill has learned that he and his parents can still communicate, he will have made a wonderful discovery. He will have discovered what home actually means. Home is more than a place which a person is either "at" or "from." Home is that indescribable something which goes on between people who share, or have shared, the intimate business of living together. For the person who sees this, no home ever ceases to be home. Two people can even feel the valuable reality of their old homes while building a new one together. Whether away at college, out of town starting a new job, or beginning a home of their own, young people can cultivate the ability to communicate with their parents. Communication will keep alive the spirit of love and creative good will which is "home."

Grandfather's Cider Press

When apples on the topmost boughs are red
And purple grapes are ripened on the vine,
We know the Indian summer days ahead
Will weave a tapestry in gay design.

In memory we watch grandfather bring
His cider press out to the Winesap tree;
We pick the wind-falls, Johnathan and King,
The Russet, Northern Spy, and Genessee.

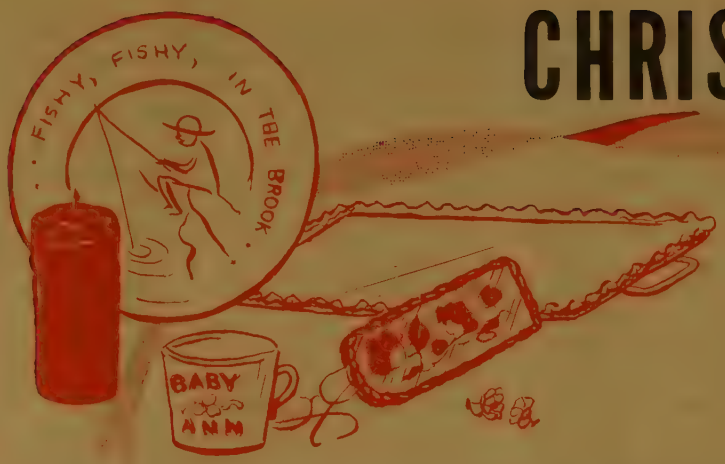
We fill the drum and watch the big wheel turn
As he grinds apples, making goodly use
Of all the fruit; impatiently we yearn
For just a taste of the delicious juice.

Now when the twilight comes and candles blaze,
We feel a kind of calm, nostalgic cheer,
Remembering the cider-pressing days,
The golden orchard days of yesteryear.

--Bess Berry Carr



CHRISTMAS MAKE--



by
Olive Walker Hanson

Much of the joy and thrill of preparing for Christmas comes in making personalized gifts for friends, relatives, and loved ones. Handmade articles not only symbolize hours of time and creative effort, but are, in themselves, tangible expressions of personal affection and love. No experience at Christmas is more gratifying than the sight of a surprised friend exclaiming, "I really can't believe that you made this for me!" Many handmade gifts are easy to create, inexpensive, useful, and attractive. The preparation of handmade gifts for friends, as well as decorations for the home, gives added meaning to the celebration of Christmas. Families and individuals will find the following instructions helpful in making special gifts and home decorations for Christmas.

Candles

As we think of Christ as "The Light of the World," and as we light our homes for this joyous holiday, we make use of candles. Candles represent a gift that Mother, Aunt, or Grandmother would appreciate. They are easy to make, inexpensive, and require only a few kitchen utensils. Purchase a box of paraffin, used when making jelly, or a candle-making kit. Use four blocks of wax; place the wick between the two center blocks, allowing about one inch to extend at the top. Melt two blocks of wax in a can. Be sure to place the can in a pan of water when you heat it on the stove, since wax is flammable when overheated. Then pour a little melted wax between the cracks of the two center blocks in order to seal this part of the candle. Keep the remainder of the melted wax; use a spoon to beat a small amount at a time until it resembles whipped cream; then spray it on the candle until it is thoroughly covered and shaped to your desire. Sprinkle with Christmas glitter. Round candles can be shaped by using a rubber ball, cut in half. Fill each half with wax. Allow to cool and follow the same method as for a square candle. Wax can be colored by dissolving a crayon in it.

Pottery

Make an anniversary plate, or a baby cup. These represent gifts that are different and almost certain not to be duplicated by others. If an electric kiln is accessible, purchase a quantity of ceramic clay and make your own pieces of pottery. Or, a more simplified procedure is to buy a good white china plate or cup. Fashion whatever design is desired, using china paint or water color overglaze paint. The piece is then fired in a kiln. If an electric kiln is not available at home, a nearby ceramic studio will fire the plate or cup. It is possible to fire pieces of pottery without an electric kiln, however. In such cases a thermosetting paint, purchasable at any hobby store, should be used. Apply the design with a camel's-hair brush, especially made for water color. Let dry and place in a cold oven; then heat to 300° F. Turn the oven off, and leave closed until completely cool. This paint is chip proof, washable, and resistant to stains. One excellent way to trace a design on china is to blacken a piece of paper on one side with a china marking pencil, thereby making a "carbon" on the reverse side of the design. Tape the paper into place, and trace with a sharp pencil.

Aluminum Trays

Aluminum etched trays of all kinds have become popular in recent years. Circles of aluminum, as well as assorted shapes, can be purchased in most hobby shops. The design is traced by using a piece of graphite paper. Whatever portion of the design is not to be etched should be painted with black asphalt. Always start in the center of your design and work toward the outside. Let the asphalt dry thoroughly. Paint the back and all edges of the article, making certain that no metal is showing. Wherever air bubbles occur, open these with a needle and go over the spot with asphalt. Allow this application to dry thoroughly. Use the etching solution called Mordant, purchasable in any drugstore. Dissolve one pound in a quart of cold water. This is a harmless compound, and can be used without danger to children. Place this in an open pan (not aluminum) deep enough to submerge the article to be etched. Then etch slowly. The slower the etching process the better the completed product. Cover the article with the compound about 1/32" in depth. Watch carefully. When the etching is deep enough, remove the article from the bath and rinse with clear, cold water. Then

YOURSELF GIFT PROJECTS



We're not trying to "rush the season." We just want to have plenty of time to try some of Mrs. Hanson's excellent Yuletide suggestions.

dissolve the asphalt with turpentine. Rinse again in clear, cold water, and use steel wool in order to polish the surface.

Leather

Leather pieces always make acceptable gifts. In many hobby stores or leather supply houses, various types of kits can be purchased, containing pre-punched pieces with complete instructions. Those who wish to be more creative may purchase scrap leather and cut their own pieces. Key cases and small items can be made from scrap. First cut a cardboard pattern to the shape desired. Place this on the leather, using a razor blade or xacto knife to cut the article. Punch the holes with a thong punch, which is inexpensive and available at any hobby shop. Use 3/32" goat or calf lacing.

Children's Projects

Gifts made by children are always welcome and appreciated, and many attractive articles can be made by the "small fry." A very useful hot pad can be made by using twenty-nine popsicle sticks. Bore a hole one-fourth inch from one end of each stick, and two inches from the other end. Thread a piece of narrow round elastic through the holes that are one-fourth inch from each end, and tie in a secure knot, forming the center of the mat. Purchase wooden beads about three-eights inch in diameter. Tie a knot in another piece of elastic and start threading through the remaining holes. Place a wooden bead between each stick and continue this procedure until all sticks have been threaded. Tie the ends of the elastic cord together and cut off the excess. The mat is now ready for shellacking or coloring. Colored crepe paper placed in a pan of hot water provides a simple dye for the sticks. Or, if preferred, they may be painted with clear shellac.

Copper Jewelry

Copper jewelry includes such articles as cuff links, tie clasps, earrings, pins, and bracelets. Beautiful copper enameled jewelry can be made at very little cost. A small kiln and a kit of supplies (enough to make a half dozen gifts) cost about $10.00. Basic copper forms must first be cleaned thoroughly with kitchen cleanser and a piece of steel wool; then coated with enameling oil and dusted with enamel. Pieces are then fired in the kiln for several minutes. Many original designs can be made by combining colored enamels, glass threads, or "lump enamels."

Cakes and Cookies

There are many friends who would cherish a box of homemade cookies. In baking Christmas cookies, keep in mind two things: make the cookies small, and decorate or color the dough with a vegetable coloring. Purchase a small tin cookie container, and lay the cookies in an attractive pattern upon a paper doily within the container. Tie with a bright ribbon. Or, bake your favorite fruit cake in a pound coffee can for some of the "older folks" who would appreciate this type of gift.

Christmas Tree

A Christmas tree made from buckram constitutes another lovely gift, which is especially suitable for the children to make for Grandmother or teacher. Purchase a half yard of white buckram. Make twelve circles of paper ranging from one inch to ten inches in diameter. Cut points on each circle about one inch in depth. Lay each pattern over two pieces of buckram and cut to size, using pinking shears to cut the buckram. Make a small cross-cut in the center of each piece. Spread a narrow strip of paste around the edge of each piece and sprinkle with glitter. Pull each piece over a ten-inch white candle, spacing evenly until the candle is covered, beginning with the widest pieces

(*Continued on page* 30)

Worship in the family with children

To Use with Younger Children

Glad for the Doctor

Sammy ate his breakfast, then got down from the table. "I'm going outside to play in the garden with Ahmed," he said.

Mother looked at Daddy. Daddy looked at Mother. Then Mother said, "I'm sorry, son, but you can't play with Ahmed."

"What?" Sammy asked. He had played with Ahmed all his life. He did not understand why he could not play with him now!

"Ahmed has sore eyes," Daddy said. "It is catching, and we don't want your eyes to get sore. So you can't play with Ahmed for a while."

Sammy began to cry. "But I want to play with Ahmed."

"Ahmed's mother will take him to see the doctor when he comes. When his eyes are well, you can play with him again."

Sammy was not happy, but there was nothing he could do about it. So he played in the garden alone.

Mother felt sorry for Sammy. After a while she came out into the garden to tell Sammy that she was going to the market to buy fruit and vegetables for dinner.

"Do you want to come with me?" she asked.

"Oh, yes," Sammy answered.

"Then come in and get your hat to keep the hot sun off your head," Mother said.

Sammy got his hat. Mother had hers. They walked to the market.

Soon they saw a crowd of people. The whole market place seemed full of people.

"See the people," Sammy said. "Why are they here?"

"This is the day the doctor comes to our village," Mother said. "I imagine the people have come to see him. We will soon see."

Sure enough, there was the doctor! One of his helpers had set up a folding table by the stone wall. Many people were waiting, to see the doctor.

"Mother! Mother," Sammy called in excitement, "There is Ahmed. See! The doctor is fixing his eyes."

Sure enough, there was Ahmed. The doctor was looking carefully into his sore eyes. His mother was standing beside him. Other mothers and fathers were near with other children to see the kind man who helped to make them well when they were sick, or to tell them how to keep well.

The mothers and fathers looked happy. Some of the children looked just a little frightened, and held tight to the comforting hand of Father or Mother.

"Ahmed," Sammy called, but Ahmed could not answer. The doctor was holding his head firmly in his gentle hands.

"Will Ahmed soon be well, Mother?" Sammy asked.

"Yes," Mother answered, "I'm sure he will. That is why the doctor comes to our village. He helps people to get well."

"I'm glad for doctors," Sammy said. So was Mother.

—WHO from Monkmeyer



Theme for November:

Thanksgiving

A Word to Parents

The materials on this page and on the next two pages are for your use in moments of worship with your children. If you have a family worship service daily in your home, some of the materials here may be used at that time. If you use *The Secret Place*, you may find that some of them fit into the meditations in that booklet.

To Use with Older Children

Thanksgiving at Grandmother's

Jody liked to go to Grandmother's. He liked her big, roomy house. He liked the vegetable garden in the big, rambling yard. He liked the worn books that lined the shelves in Grandmother's big living room. And Grandmother herself! She always had a smile on her face. Jody often heard her humming a happy little tune as she worked. It made him feel happy just to look at Grandmother.

Grandmother always seemed to understand Jody. If he didn't feel well, she knew what to do to make him feel better. If he wanted a story, Grandmother knew just the kind to read. If he wanted to play, Grandmother could suggest a game or a playmate to fit the occasion.

And how Grandmother could cook! Jody thought her dinners were the best he ever ate. His mouth watered just thinking about all the good things that Grandmother could fix.

Today was Thanksgiving day. There was only one place for the family to eat Thanksgiving dinner. That was at Grandmother's. But Jody was worried! When Daddy had called Grandmother to talk about their coming, he had said, "Now, Mother, don't go to a lot of trouble because we are coming. Remember you are not so young as you once were. We can eat anything. So don't do too much."

All the way to Grandmother's, Jody thought about it. Suppose she took Daddy seriously! What would they have to eat? Would Thanksgiving be the same without turkey and all that went with it?

At last the long ride was over. There was Grandmother sitting by the window. Everyone hurried into the house. There was the good smell of baking and cooking. Jody felt relieved! When Grandmother went into the kitchen, Jody followed her.

"It sure smells good in here," Jody said. "I was afraid maybe you wouldn't cook much after Daddy talked to you. I wondered if it would be Thanksgiving if we didn't have a turkey!"

Grandmother laughed. She opened the oven door. She pulled the roaster out. There was a beautiful turkey. It smelled wonderful!

"I knew that both you and your daddy would be hungry, Jody," she said softly. "So I'm prepared. But let's talk about Thanksgiving."

"What is there to talk about?" Jody asked.

"What makes it Thanksgiving?"

"Oh, the turkey, and being here," Jody answered.

"Think again," Grandmother said. "Don't you think it would be Thanksgiving if we had a chicken, or a roast, or even just sandwiches?"

Jody thought for a while. He remembered a picture and some Bible verses his class had talked about at church school. Slowly, he nodded his head.

"It isn't turkey that makes Thanksgiving," he said. "It is being really glad for God's good plans."

Grandmother smiled again. "That's exactly right!"

My Colored Words

"Summer" is a rainbow word;
Rainbow breast of humming bird;
Rainbow sunsets paint the sky;
Rainbow bee and dragonfly;
Rainbow garden; God with all
Rainbow hues is prodigal.
"Summer" is a rainbow word.

"Autumn" has a golden sound:
Golden carpet on the ground;
Golden harvest floods the field;
Golden nuggets orchards yield;
Goldenrod, and hills embossed
Goldenly by early frost.
"Autumn" has a golden sound.

—Julia W. Wolfe

My Thanks

I say thank you every morning
For the warm light of the sun.
I say thank you every evening
For food and home and fun.

I say thanks for springtime lilies,
And for autumn goldenrod;
For winter and for summer
I say thank you, thank you, God.

—Enola Chamberlin

—David W. Corson from A. Devaney



For Family Worship

Worship Center: If you use a worship center in your home to help create an attitude of worship, plan to use on it some fruits, vegetables, or grain typical of your locality, with the Bible open to the "Call to Worship."

Call to Worship:

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, thou art very great!
Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth.
O LORD, how manifold are thy works!
In wisdom hast thou made them all.

—Psalm 104:1, 14, 24

Hymn: Use a favorite song of some member of your family; use the one printed on this page; or choose between "All People That on Earth Do Dwell," junior pupil's book, year one, fall, page 29, and "Come, Ye Thankful People," junior pupil's book, year three, fall, page 32.

Poem: Use one of those printed on these pages or choose between "We Thank Thee, Father," primary pupil's book, year one, fall, page 31, and "Hymn of Thanksgiving," junior pupil's book, year one, fall, page 34.

Story: Use one of the stories printed on these pages or choose between "The Second-Year Class Celebrates," beginning on page 17, and "A Sharing Thanksgiving," beginning on page 23 of the primary pupil's book, year two, fall.

Prayer: Pray your own prayer, use the litany printed on this page, or choose from the primary pupil's book, year one, spring, the prayer found on page 29 or "A Prayer for Home," page 45.

The Boy on Plymouth's Shore

(A Litany)

Three hundred years ago, and more,
There stood on Plymouth's wooded shore
A boy of six like you and me
With breeches buckled at his knee.
We thank thee, God, for him!

A pilgrim boy who bowed his head
In prayer, as Elder Brewster said,
"We give thee all the thanks, O God,
For food grown from this blessed sod . . ."
We thank thee, God, for him!

Then when the elder's prayers were done,
And hymns of praise by all were sung,
That boy, so like both you and me,
With breeches buckled at his knee—
Began to laugh, and run, and play
On that long ago Thanksgiving Day.
For life was sweet and brimming o'er
With love and peace on Plymouth's shore.
We thank thee, God, for him!

—Mazelle Wildes Thomas

Thanksgiving

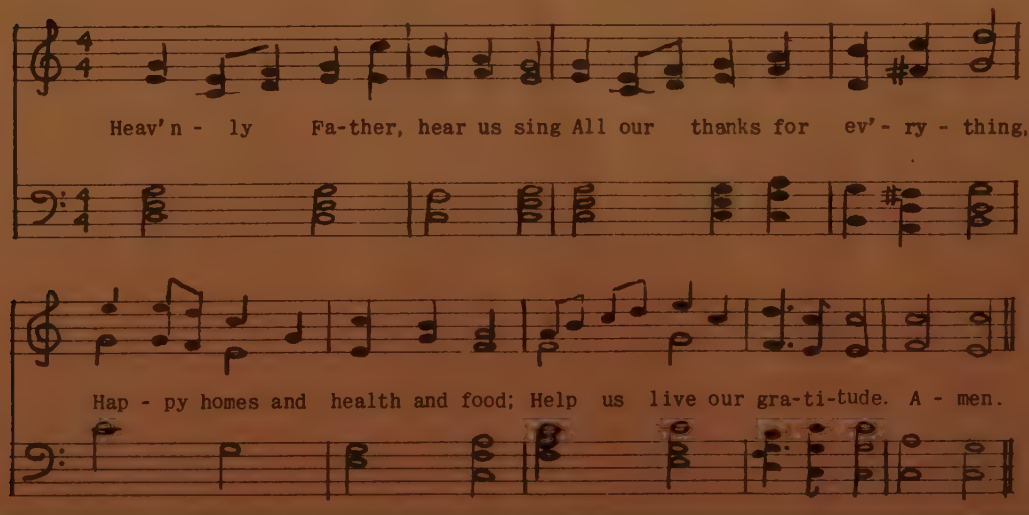
For skies and birds and flowers and trees,
For brooks and butterflies and bees,
For sun and rain and friendly breeze,
We thank you, dear God.

For Father, Mother, teachers, too,
For playmates sweet and kind and true,
For all the wondrous things you do,
We thank you, dear God.

—Florence Pedigo Jansson

Thanks Song

—C. L. Ziegler, 1953



The Inquisitive Goat



by Jean Wyatt

Greet, a little Dutch girl, nibbled thoughtfully on a pannekoek, or hard cookie, as she stretched her blue eyes beyond the window in her parents' home.

"It is not all happiness," she told herself, "coming to live in this strange new land of America."

It was lonely since her big sister Beatrix had left to train as a nurse in a hospital in the distant city.

Greet sighed, brushing away the crumbs of cookie from her lips. She was about to turn from the window when she spied her pet goat, Mathilda, walking sedately up to the sidewalk fence.

"What mischief is the little one planning?" she wondered, remembering Mathilda's innocent look on the day that she had opened the gate by gently butting the latch and then escaping down the road.

At the same moment Greet spied Alice Bishop, a girl her own age, hurrying up the street. Alice had been the first to speak to her the day she had moved into this neighborhood with her father and mother.

Alice's hands were full of rainbow-colored envelopes. Just as she reached the gate, Mathilda suddenly poked her head inquisitively through a loose slat in the fence. She grabbed at the envelopes in Alice's hand, and one of them came away in her mouth.

Alice looked surprised and was off with the speed of a humming bird. She was soon out of sight around a corner.

Mathilda sped to the bottom of the garden with her prize.

Greet raced out of the door, and the game of tag was over in a short time.

"It is not a good joke," Greet reproved the little goat, but she couldn't help smiling as she removed a pink envelope from its mouth.

The envelope was unsealed and chewed around the edge as though it had been a juicy carrot. Part of the enclosure fell out. There was writing on the slip of chewed paper.

"... come to my birthday party tomorrow. Alice."

Greet's eyes brightened with excitement. Did Alice want her to come to a party at her home? Then Greet had a sudden, new thought. Did Alice *mean* her? Would the little American girl have gone on and not turned in at the gate?

"Mathilda," Greet spoke slowly, "you were the one who snatched the envelope from Alice's hand. I cannot keep this invitation, for it really doesn't belong to me."

All in a moment Greet ran into the house, to the kitchen where a pleasant-faced woman was busy baking.

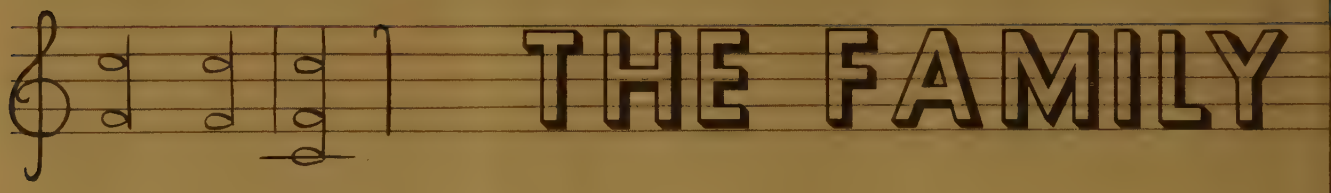
"Mama, would you allow me to

(*Continued on page* 30)

—Winifred Jewell



by Ruth Lentz



Music is not only an art; it is also recreation in its broadest, deepest sense. One sings by instinct, giving emotional and spiritual expression to the deep feelings of love, joy, and adoration. Music can be as much a part of life as food and rest, a source of pleasure, releasing strain, worry, sorrow, and even pain.

The family is the ideal setting for responding naturally to emotions through music. Since the one universal musical instrument is the human voice, and one can sing if he can talk, what a rich opportunity for family fellowship are the times of singing together!

Our religious heritage is full of songs expressing the deepest longings for fellowship with God and one's brother; to give thanks to God for his goodness, for the beauties of nature and human love. The Psalms with their definite rhythm and expressive phrases were a vital part of Hebrew life, not only enjoyed in synagogue and temple, but learned and sung within the family circle.

Actual experiences were given poetic expression through singing "The Lord is my shepherd," or "I will lift up my eyes," or "When I look at the heavens—what is man?" Some historians affirm that many of the Psalms which we cherish today were preserved because they became burned on the memory of the people as they sang them secretly within their homes during the days of exile and captivity

What a poignant incident is that of the "singing of a hymn" by Jesus and the eleven disciples to close their final, earthly fellowship of the Passover feast, a traditional Hebrew family celebration!

The Christmas season presents an ideal time for family songfests, for no other music is more beloved than the carols. Many families experiencing the lift of music during this holiday period continue to sing together regularly throughout the year.

Familiar carols take on new interest by the discovery of their origin and their biblical background. Carols of many countries or other periods in history open up a fascinating study, deepening the realization that Christmas is universal.

The beautiful recordings of the Trapp Family Singers recall to us that it was in the setting of their deeply religious home that their inspiring music was born.

In families with young children we must realize that early childhood is the "experiencing" phase. As the child hears his mother's or father's voice, as he senses the rhythm and musical sounds from recordings, radio, television, or instruments being played, he enters gradually into the "expressive" phase. This may evolve as naturally as speaking, for children and music belong together.

Parents do not need to be talented musically to foster enjoyment in this area. Folk music gives us a clue to the background of many of our favorite songs—words and rhythm that have emerged from simple, everyday experiences.

A three-year-old may repeat a little chant as he puts his toys away: "Here is a green one, here is a red one"; or at nap time Bobby hears his mother humming a happy tune as she washes the dishes, or Daddy whistling as he polishes the car. Bedtime brings a brief period of quiet singing or humming of a prayer, such as "Be our guardian and guide," set to Brahms' "Lullaby."

As the children grow older, they become interested in songs with movement as well as melody. Nursery rhymes and folk songs have great appeal at this stage of development ("Looby Loo," "Go In and Out the Window," "London Bridge"). Such songs as these re-create for the child familiar, daily experiences, putting them in a more expressive form that he understands and enjoys.

Parents should acquaint themselves with two excellent books used in our church schools: (1) *Nursery Songs and Rhythms,* containing about fifty simple songs and rhythm plays with a 33⅓ r.p.m. record available; (2) *Kindergarten Songs and Rhythms,* a similar collection for the four- and five-year-olds, centered on the themes of God, church, and family.

Piano or other instrumental accompaniment to singing is not necessary, although helpful and enriching. Using familiar, simple songs, emphasizing the rhythm, expressing word thought through motions

SINGS TOGETHER

or pantomime enhances the music. Singing with recorded music may be helpful. By learning to play the "recorder" or "tonette" parents or older children improve the singing. When an instrument is used, the melody line and rhythm are more important than elaborate or intricate harmonies that confuse the ear. Pre-school and kindergarten children enjoy the various rhythm toys like triangles, sticks, and tambourines.

One of the most exhilarating family experiences is in creating music, for people make tunes by instinct. Often children produce spontaneously little songs that are mere repetition of phrases or nonsense syllables. The motivation may be a certain activity like sweeping or swinging, or an impressive line from a story, poem, or prayer.

One family who picnicked often in the woods developed a remarkable collection of its own songs by setting words to rhythmic patterns and melodic motifs heard in the world of nature.

Folk songs are the "heartbeat" of people and their culture through which we come to know others better. Sharing in the music of other countries and peoples is an outreaching that brings greater understanding and appreciation across racial and international lines. The little paper-backed series of the Co-operative Recreation Service of Delaware, Ohio, *Songs of Many Nations* and *Sing a Tune*, are an inexpensive collection.

The Whole World Singing, by Edith Lovell Thomas, contains a rich store of treasures from all corners of the world. Not only are there ballads,



—photo by erb

hymns, camp songs, and chanteys, but work songs like "Planting Rice," from the Philippines, "Before Dinner," from the Congo, and "Making Maple Sugar," from the Chippewa Indians.

Nothing releases tension like a nonsense or fun song. A few suggestions may include "She Threw It Out the Window," "Little Cabin in the Wood," and "Indians Are High-Minded," with motions, or "Three Wood Pigeons" and "The Elephant Song."

Perhaps the most neglected source of music for the family, and yet the richest one, is our hymnbook, for the appreciative singing of hymns is vital to Christian growth and experience.

Many of our hymns have a background of interesting stories, such as "Now Thank We All Our God," composed by Martin Rinkart as a family grace during a time of personal sorrow and great strain. Others like "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" are based on classical themes, for that inspiring hymn-tune is the principal motif of Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony."

Other hymns paint a picture ("This Is My Father's World") and can be illustrated by colored slides or drawings.

A whole series of hymns are paraphrases of the Psalms: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," "In Heavenly Love Abiding," on the Twenty-third

Study Guide

Leader's Preparation

1. Since this meeting is based on music, the use of a record player is valuable. The assistance of a pianist will facilitate the singing, but it is not necessary if you are capable of conducting. (*How to Lead Group Singing*, by Helen and Larry Eisenberg, Abingdon Press, is a good tool.)

2. Provide a sufficient number of hymnbooks, song sheets, and *Fellowship Song Book*, the paper-backed collection used in youth conferences.

3. Read the article and encourage group members to do so.

4. Ask several of the group in advance to be prepared to share (a) favorite hymns, (b) popular folk songs, (c) fellowship or fun songs.

The Meeting

1. As the group gathers, play recordings of folk songs, fun songs, and hymns.

2. Open the meeting with the reading of Psalm 148, commenting briefly on the musical heritage of our Bible.

3. Conduct a brief, informal "hymn-sing," a stanza or two of each as suggested by the group.

4. Discuss conversationally favorite songs of childhood, with these questions: Why did you like a particular song? How did you learn it?

5. Divide into small groups, assigning to each a project or report to develop in an allotted time (15-20 minutes).

a) How may we enrich our family's Christmas celebration with music?

b) How does singing relieve tension and restore unity? Give examples.

c) Demonstrate "singing for fun" with rounds, counterpoint, pantomime, etc.

d) Compose a simple song, such as a grace, a family prayer, or activity song.

e) Select several folk songs of various racial and national groups. Be prepared to teach or lead them to the larger group.

f) Select a well-known hymn and prepare an "appreciation" by story, history, background, or dramatization.

g) Select an unfamiliar hymn and prepare a presentation so that the group will desire to learn it.

6. Have the group presentations and reports.

7. Close by singing together a hymn of dedication and prayer, such as "For the Beauty of the Earth" or "Now Thank We All Our God."

Resources*

The World from Our Home (Chapter 6 "Music in the Home"), Friendship Press.

Music for Children's Living, Association for Childhood Education, Washington, D. C.

Stories of Hymns We Love, by Cecilia Rudin.

Famous Hymns with Stories and Pictures, by Elizabeth Hubbard Bonsall.

Hymns We Love, by Cecil Northcott, Westminster Press.

American Folk Songs for Children, by Ruth Seegar, Doubleday.

The Whole World Singing, by Edith Lovell Thomas.

Sing, Children, Sing, by Edith Lovell Thomas.

Nursery Songs and Rhythms.

Kindergarten Songs and Rhythms.

Songs of Many Nations, and *Sing a Tune*, Co-operative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio.

Abingdon Song Kit, Abingdon Press.

CYF Fellowship Song Book.

Christian Worship—A Hymnal, Bethany Press.

Hymns for Creative Living, Judson Press.

The Gospel in Hymns, by Albert Bailey, Scribner's.

Christmas in the Home, by Glenn McRae, Bethany Press.

Recordings

Christmas Carols, Albums I and II, RCA LM 1112, Shaw Chorale.

In Joyous Song (album), Follett Pub. Co.

Folk Songs, Children's Record Guild, 100 Sixth Ave., New York 13, N. Y.

Playtime Songs, Young People's Record No. 729, 100 Sixth Ave., New York 13, N. Y.

Sing a Song of Friendship, Popular Science Pub. Co., 353 Fourth Ave. New York 10, N. Y.

*Obtainable from both publishing houses which publish *Hearthstone*.

Psalm; "O God Our Help," Psalm 90; "Jesus Shall Reign," Psalm 72.

Using the Bible and hymnbook together strengthens our faith as we make an integral part of our lives the great affirmations of such hymns as "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy," "O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go," "Immortal Love," and "All My Hope on God Is Founded."

The entire family approaches the service of worship in the sanctuary with keener awareness and preparation if the hymns are known and understood. Some families secure from the pastor or minister of music the hymns to be used for each coming Sunday. These are not only sung at home during the week, but interesting facts are discovered about them.

When may a family sing during these crowded days? A regular, appointed time is desirable, but a happy togetherness is achieved by singing during the performance of a tedious chore or while traveling, relaxing, having family worship, and celebrating anniversaries.

What a joy to discover with Jean Ingelow in her verse,

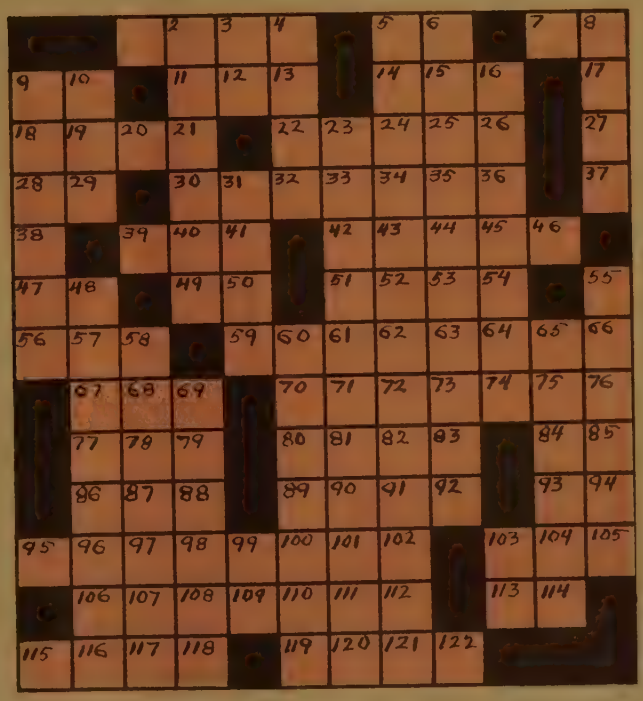
"I opened the doors of my heart,
And behold,
There was music within,
And a song."

BIBLEGRAM

by Hilda E. Allen

Guess the words defined below and write them over their numbered dashes. Then transfer each letter to the correspondingly numbered square in the pattern. The colored squares indicate word endings.

Reading from left to right, you will find that the filled pattern will contain a selected quotation from the Bible.



A Small blue flower. Rhode Island State flower ------ 35 9 54 20 65 7

B The nose of a pig ------ 48 66 101 113 45

C Sooner than ---------- 22 50 59 31 41 58

D Month in which "dog days" come ---------- 25 68 1 40 6 73

E To mourn, or lament ---- 33 69 2 36 57 71

F The rainy month -------- 18 96 75 121 108

G Twice as much ---------- 26 60 15 44 52 4

H To act in a proper manner-- 72 43 8 51 3 81

I First day of the fifth month of the year ---------- 95 12 21 83 77 13

J Loose, baggy shirt worn by a sailor ---------- 103 80 67 5 10 94

K First part of the names of the last two big wars ---- 49 39 116 122 29

L Faint hearted, or shy ------ 105 34 118 63 70

M To keep away from someone or something ---------- 27 120 92 109 42

N April day known as "All Fools Day" 30 19 112 53 91

O Ran or operated an automobile ---------- 79 16 117 64 107

P Engine with a connected line of railroad cars ---------- 93 23 47 100 78

Q To jeer at or ridicule someone ---------- 97 56 37 86 99

R Building in which to live -- 35 14 104 38 119

S To approve, or show partiality to ---------- 115 82 110 74 32

T South American mountains - 98 102 17 24 85

U Twelve dozen ---------- 62 61 87 46 76

V Place to look for eggs ---- 28 111 114 88

W Untied, or opened, as a package ---------- 84 90 106 89 11

Solution on p. 30

A TELEVISION PARTY

Something different, something new, something that should interest you. A television party, but not the kind of which you are probably thinking.

No, it will not be one where a few guests will be sitting in front of a TV set, with their eyes glued on a screen, and where no one is allowed to make a sound. So perhaps we should call this an active television party.

A large number of people can be entertained for an entire evening at this kind of affair, and what is better still, they can be enticed into furnishing much of the fun themselves.

As the guests arrive, pin on each one, where all may see, a slip of paper bearing a fictitious name to which each must answer for the rest of the evening. Here are some suggestions for the fictitious names:

I. C. Alot; Dr. Howwell I. Knowem; R. U. Silly; I. Winkem; Miss Tryto Vampem; Mr. Ken E. Warble; Mrs. I. C. Stare; Mr. Howe I. Foolem; Mrs. Iona Bank; Mr. Watt A. Katch; Mr. I. Ken Getem; O. G. Whatawad; Miss Lotta Doe; O. U. Kidd; Justin Tyme; Nat. E. Dresser; U. R. Green; O. B. Funny; Cra King Wisecracks; Guy I. New; E. Z. Doe; Miss May B. Highhat; U. R. Looney; and if there is a very thin man among the guests name him Hugh G. Tonage. Other fictitious names can be thought up if the crowd is a large one, such as O. U. Scarem; Lem N. Ade; Lott A. Gaul, I. Ken Pucker, and so on.

A make-believe television set is on the platform at the front of the room. After the guests have mingled long enough to read each one's new name, the master of ceremonies appears beside the television set and makes the introductions.

He may start off the program in the following manner.

Ladies and Gentlemen: This is station GUSH-TV. I am Will Blab, the announcer. All commercials appearing on this broadcast are local and bona fide. Since our budget is so huge, we have been able to secure for this occasion a notable list of first-class entertainers. We are exuberant, and I know

by Loie Brandom

you will be, too. So, as I am getting wild signals from the camera men to start the show, I will proceed by introducing our first speaker, Mr. O. G. Whatawad, who will tell us in simple words, and a three-minute time limit, how we may all amass a huge fortune as he has done. I present Mr. Whatawad!

Following this get rich talk, Miss Tryto Vampem (who probably is really a very modest, unmarried schoolteacher) will proceed to tell the women in the audience how to vamp a man, while the men also take notes on the subject.

For the commercials, one of which can be used here on the program, and the others scattered in now and then, advertise local businesses, the owners of which may be in the audience. Thus, the ad for a local butchershop might be, "We have the cold facts about cold feet—pigs' feet that is." A good ad for a local photograph gallery: "If there is beauty, we take it—if none, we make it." A used-car lot ad might be, "Low cost transportation—if it runs." A local tailor may advertise, "If you see it in our ad, it's sew, sew." A real estate dealer's ad could read, "The early bird often catches the worm, but we don't sit around and squirm."

The best way to present the ads is to have them written out plainly on big white cards and to have them held up at the proper time, so that all may see and read them.

Other appropriate subjects introduced by the speakers could be a talk by Mr. I. Ken Getem, a well-known local fisherman; Miss Lotta Doe tells the trials of a poor-little-rich girl, and Mr. Ken E. Warble entertains with a funny song.

The success of the program will, of course, depend upon the wit of the M.C., his elaborate introductions and jokes, and the fun that the speakers can inject into their speeches. All who have been asked to speak have, of course, been notified of their subjects beforehand, and are prepared when called upon. Only the speakers, naturally, are given a hint of the program ahead of time. So the others may keep wondering if there is any danger of their being called upon to speak.

The M. C. should have ready various noisemakers, which will produce static if any speaker threatens to talk longer than the permitted three minutes. The program, like regular TV programs, should be carefully time, and "signed off" before it gets tiresome.

A good speaker with which to close the program would be Miss I. C. Alot, who supposedly is a newspaper reporter, and should be able to present a number of brief, amusing news items (all of them imaginary, of course) about different people present in the audience. For example, she might say of the young man doing the announcing, that after he had played some records on one of the station's programs, he received a telephone call from Miss (a local singer) asking, "Have you Kissed Me in the Twilight?" To which he replied, "I'm sorry to say it must have been the other announcer, as unfortunately I was out of the city at that time."

As all will agree, at any party, the M.C. may announce at the end of the program, that if the audience will remain seated, refreshments of oscillation-transmission, amplified generators, and radiation will be served to them in their seats. (The oscillation-transmission being orange ice, or ice cream; the amplified generators being cupcakes; and radiation being hot drinks of coffee or cocoa.)

If the party is a smaller one, the guests may be directed to a booth from which the refreshments may be obtained.

If the guests wish to linger after the refreshments, a "Hit Parade" would make a novel finish for a TV party, with the M.C. announcing the songs, while a quartet of good voices, chosen from among the audience, leads the others in singing the songs currently heard on TV programs.

Everyone will have such a good time that it is sure to be a "late, late show."

• What Father Does Is Always Right

(*Continued from page* 10)

"He can listen to the story too," Bugs answered with simple logic.

"You promised last night that you would tell us another chapter tonight," Betty chimed in.

I had promised. At the end of the chapter last night, I had stilled their pleadings for more of the story by promising another chapter tonight. At the time I had forgotten that Mr. Hethington would be our guest. Cathy and I have always made it a rule to keep our promises to the youngsters whenever humanly possible.

"We expect them to keep their promises to us," she said. "We have to keep ours to them."

When I looked to her for help, she seemed to misunderstand my look. She was sitting back smiling as though she were showing off some prized specimen.

"Well," I gave in, trying to salvage something from a bad situation. "If Mr. Hethington will excuse me for a few minutes, I'll tell you the next chapter of the story. In return you and Betty must promise that you will go to your rooms as soon as the story is done."

"O.K.," Bugs agreed readily.

Betty was more cautious. "The story might not last until our bedtime," she pointed out.

"You can have the extra time to get ready for bed," I conceded.

"Agreed," she said.

Writers of stories for youngsters need have no fear that I will enter this story into competition with theirs. It's a silly rambling thing about knights, dragons, castles, and fairy princesses. No publisher would buy it, but the youngsters like it. They were remarkably still while I told them the next chapter.

When the story was finished, Betty took a look at the clock. "In ten minutes you can tell us another chapter," she said.

"A promise is a promise," I answered sternly.

"A promise is a promise. A promise is a promise," Bugs chanted, scrambling from my lap and dashing toward the stairs.

Betty tore after him as though she was afraid she would be disgraced if she didn't keep the promise so quickly as he did. Cathy stood up to follow them. To my pleased surprise both Bugs and Betty stopped at the foot of the stairs to say good night to Mr. Hethington.

I gave my boss a quick look, but I could read nothing in his face. If he was offended that we hadn't interrupted our regular family routine, he didn't show it. Of course he wouldn't. A vice-president would have the ability to hide his thoughts from others.

I remembered my duties as host and started a conversation. I carefully avoided shop talk. I started us off on the weather, and somehow we shifted to flowers. To my surprise Mr. Hethington was a flower gardener and was especially proud of his zinnias, flowers which I would have presumed too old-fashioned for his taste.

About a half hour later Cathy came downstairs and announced that the youngsters were asleep.

"A wonderfully managed household," Mr. Hethington murmured.

Cathy glowed as though he had paid her a tremendous compliment.

The conversation remained general after Cathy returned to the room. I found myself actually enjoying talking with Mr. Hethington. Cathy helped out whenever there was any lag.

She had me squirming once. She was telling Mr. Hethington of some matter that we had discussed a long time before we reached a decision. She explained that she had agreed to my plan because our family ran on the idea that "what Father does is always right." I expected him to roar with laughter or to smile condescendingly. Instead he grinned appreciatively and nodded agreement.

When it was time for me to take him back to the hotel, he thanked Cathy. "This has been a delightful evening," he said. "I can't remember when I've enjoyed a visit this much."

On the drive to the hotel, he said the same thing to me. Since he didn't mention the matter of my promotion, I knew I hadn't passed his test. I tried to keep the disappointment out of my voice as I carried on my share of the conversation. At the hotel he stepped out of the car and turned to face me.

"Bill," he began, and I braced myself, knowing that this was the kindly paternal tone he would use in speaking to a man who hadn't quite made the grade, "we have been pleased with the way you have handled this branch. Still, there are other things which we must consider when we get ready to promote a man to one of the responsible positions in the home office. We have to be sure that his family situation is passable. Yours is ideal. That wife of yours is a jewel. I'm glad you're the one to be promoted."

I hope I thanked him. I had myself so well prepared to face bad news that the good left me dazed. I hadn't recovered by the time I got home. When I walked into the house, Cathy was straightening up as calmly as she would have after some of the neighbors had spent an evening with us.

"Mr. Hethington seemed to enjoy his visit," she said. Although she must have read in my dazed look that I hadn't received the promotion, she didn't act disappointed.

"Cathy," I almost yelled. "We're in. I've been promoted to that job in the home office."

"Great," she said with remarkable calmness. "I knew you would be."

"You knew I would be!" I exclaimed almost as surprised at her calmness as I had been at Mr. Hethington's announcement.

"Of course," she answered. "You've done a good job at the branch. When I knew that Mr. Hethington was coming to visit our home before he made the final decision, I knew that you had the promotion. You have the house running on an even keel just like your office. Don't I say, 'What Father does is always right?'"

She looked up at me with shining eyes. I grabbed her and pulled her close. I was bursting with pride. What she said about my having the house running like my office was big praise. Suddenly, her words quit racing through my mind and stood still long enough for me to take a look at them. I loosened my hold and put my hands on her shoulders. I pushed her back just far enough so that I could look into her eyes.

"Both of us know that business about what father does always being right is hooey," I said. She started to say something; so I slid my arms down and pulled her up against me so that she couldn't interrupt. I went on firmly. "It's nice hooey, but it is hooey. But there was one time when what father did really was right. That's the time he asked you to be his wife."

She didn't say a word, just snuggled up a little closer. She was crying, not the kind of crying that upsets a man. It was the kind that told him the world was just too doggone good to be true.

• LIVING PEACEABLY on two Incomes

(*Continued from page* 5)

of course, are twofold: The husband no longer has the feeling that his earnings are inadequate to support the family's basic needs, and it tends to make certain that the necessities are met and that the luxuries must wait.

The wife's check can be used for items that are not normally monthly expenses in the budget. Thus, her income will not inflate the living standards of the household. When she gives up her office or factory job to stay at home and raise a family, there will be no dislocation of the household budget. Quarrels will be avoided, also.

Many husbands give their wives their paychecks. Allowing them to handle the money, the husbands are not pawns every time a friend wishes a small loan. If the wife is a good manager—as many wives have learned to be when they had to earn their own living while their husbands were in the armed forces—the family budget can always be met. Thus, the two-income family can be a peaceable family. Its total income will be divided, and a tenth given to the church. The temptations and problems over finances which lead many couples to the divorce courts can be solved by simply and sensibly managing to live within the means of whatever income the family has.



Family Counselor

Q. OUR PROBLEM is this: Our twenty-three-year-old daughter is contemplating marriage with a man twice her age. Both are college graduates and he is at present teaching in a high school, but is considering going into training for a position as "teacher-preacher" for his denomination. We feel the age gap there is too great for a stable marriage.

Too, the man in question is divorced. It seems that one month after marriage his wife, who was a divorcee, walked out on him. According to him, the fault was all hers. During his lifetime he has served in several branches of the armed services.

Some of these facts rather stack up against the man's stability. Are we as parents justly concerned? How shall we proceed and not be too arbitrary?

A. IT IS not surprising, of course, that you should be somewhat concerned as to whether or not your daughter will be happy in this marriage. Although the age differential between your daughter and her fiance is greater than is usually considered desirable, it need not be considered as an insurmountable obstacle to happiness in marriage. Presumably your daughter and he have considered the problems that may arise out of their age differences and have decided that in spite of them they can make a go of marriage.

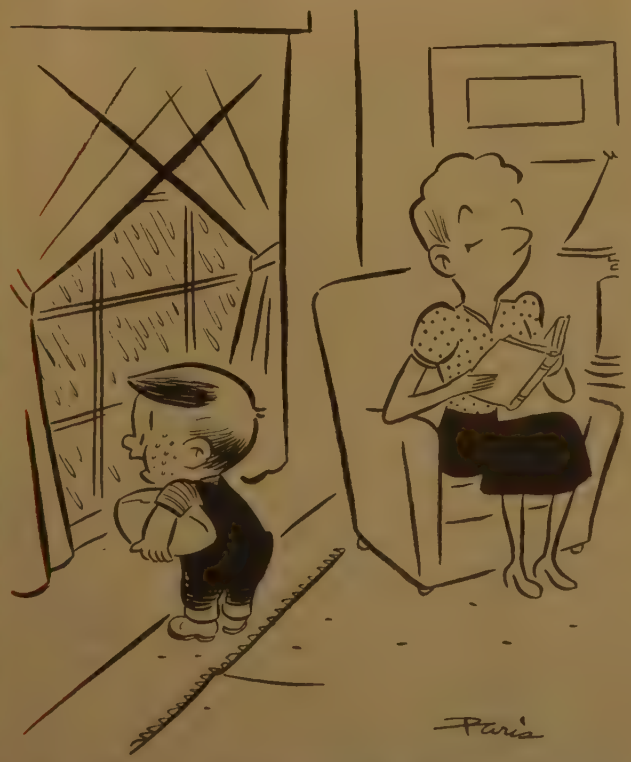
The man's record suggests a bit of instability, but again, with his educational background and present position, it would seem that he should be able to care adequately for your daughter. In fact, she probably will make him more stable.

The real question, of course, is whether or not they really love each other. Your daughter is old enough to know her own mind and if she seems to be sure that she really loves and wants to marry this man, you probably should not put an obstacle in the way.

Most ministers today desire several counseling periods or conferences with couples they are to marry and it is to be hoped that your daughter and her fiance will go to such a minister to be married. In their counseling with him, they undoubtedly will discuss the age differential and other factors that may arise in their marriage.

Donald M. Maynard

W I L B U R



"Can't depend on Grampa's rheumatism at all any more!"

• Christmas Make-It-Yourself Gift Projects

(*Continued from page* 17)

first. Place in a glass star candle holder. Cover the wick with two small gold stars, and you have a Christmas tree, lovely enough for any table or to use as a gift.

Aprons

For children who like to sew, a fancy apron is always appreciated by Mother. Beautiful and inexpensive aprons can be made from as little as one-half yard of nylon net. One yard will provide two pieces thirty-six by eighteen inches, enough for two aprons. Gather the widest side of one piece and attach to a ribbon which matches or contrasts with the color of the material. A festive apron, which Mother will wear very proudly on Christmas day, can be made from black nylon net with a red ribbon or a large red rose attached.

Stuffed Toys

Patterns for stuffed toys can be purchased for many different kinds of animals, or a kit containing necessary materials and instructions is available in the art sections of department stores. After you have sewed the material, fill it with foam rubber. If the toy is made of terry cloth, it can be cleaned in the washing machine.

Miscellaneous

Needlepoint kits for wallets, eyeglass cases, compacts, and pictures are also available and easy to make. Such gifts will last for many years as a constant reminder of love and affection.

Make Christmas Creative

The commercialization of Christmas has conditioned many people to seek gifts that can be purchased quickly and easily at nearby stores. Christian families, however, should have a different motivation and purpose in celebrating Christmas from the routine giving and receiving of presents. The joy of heralding the advent of Jesus should cause every Christian family to make this celebration a truly creative expression of rejoicing and of gift giving.

Biblegram Solution

(*Biblegram on page* 25)

SOLUTION: "Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." (Matthew 6: 11-13.)

The Words

A Violet	L Timid
B Snout	M Avoid
C Before	N First
D August	O Drove
E Grieve	P Train
F April	Q Taunt
G Double	R House
H Behave	S Favor
I May Day	T Andes
J Blouse	U Gross
K World	V Nest
	W Undid

• The Inquisitive Goat

(*Continued from page* 21)

have a few of the oliebollen?" she asked.

Her mother glanced up and nodded her answer.

Greet piled the doughnuts with raisins hiding in them into a gay box. She tied it with a bit of bright ribbon. Then she wrote on a slip of paper, "Mathilda's gift to Alice."

Greet smiled. "I'll deliver this now," she thought.

The little Dutch girl stepped along the street. As she laid the box with the note and the chewed birthday invitation on the porch of Alice's home, the door was flung wide.

"Hi!" Alice called gaily. "Come in, Greet. I have something to give you."

She pulled Greet by the arm into the hall.

"I'm glad I happened to see you come up the steps. Saves me a stamp," she laughed.

As the girls sat on a divan in the living room, Alice said, "I had a birthday invitation for you, but your pet goat got it."

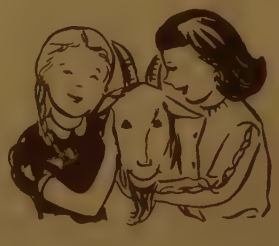
Greet's eyes widened.

"Mathilda grabbed the envelope meant for you from my hand," went on Alice, "and she scared me so much that I ran. I decided to deliver the others and make out a new one for you and mail it."

Alice jumped up and ran over to a desk. She waved a blue square envelope. "It's all ready, but the stamp. I wouldn't have to meet Mathilda this way," she added.

Greet laughed merrily.

"Thank you, Alice," she said, taking the invitation. "Though my goat *is* inquisitive," she explained, "she does not mean harm. Here," Greet held out the box of oliebollen. "This is a small gift for you from Mathilda for her rudeness."



"Mmmm!" Alice said when she opened the box and bit into a doughnut. "Good!"

"They're made the Dutch way," Greet told Alice. Then she said shyly, "Alice?"

"What is it, Greet?" Alice asked kindly.

"I know a game we play in Holland that your friends might like to play at the birthday party."

Alice clapped her hands.

"A new game to play would be fun!" she said. "Do tell me about it."

Later as Greet left for her own home, Alice said to her, "I'm sure glad Mathilda snatched that envelope. This visit has made us good friends."

Greet nodded.

"Knowing you better," the little Dutch girl added simply, "makes me feel glad that I have come to live in this fine country."



BOOKS for the hearthside

For Children

The exciting atmosphere of the sawdust ring is the background for **Circus Daze**, by Velma Griffin (Westminster, Phila., 1957, 189 pages. $2.75). Mark Farnsworth runs away from the orphans' home to join relatives who are performers with a circus. He finds at first that life is usually no easier on what looks to be the "sunny side of the street." There is excitement in circus life, but there is also drudgery, danger, and monotony. But the circus people with all their varied personalities, and even the animals, all have a part in helping Mark to find himself and to rise above his mistakes and foolishness to become one of the circus family. The author writes out of her own experience of several years with Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey circus.

Another of the Makers of America biographical studies is **Eli Whitney—Master Craftsman**, by Miriam Gilbert (Abingdon, Nashville, 1956, 128 pages. $1.50). Here is a vivid portrayal of the development of this great inventor from his boyhood to manhood. It shows him in his father's workshop, at college, and during the struggle to perfect and manufacture his cotton gin. It also tells of other contributions which he made to the industrial life of America.

A Christmas counting book, by Joan Gale Thomas, is called **One Little Baby** (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Co., 1956, unpaged, $1.00). The numbers to be counted are from 1 to 10, and each one is applied to some part of the Christmas story. Although the book is planned for use with very young children, the language is far from childlike. Some persons may object to the precise number that the author has applied to some elements of the story.

It's Fun to Be Nice, by Wanda Bell (Warner Press, 1956, unpaged, 75 cents), pictures desirable behavior through a story about a doll and a Teddy bear. This book is for the preschool age. The illustrations by Vera Gohman will help young children to "read" the story.

When I Pray, by Olive W. Burt (Warner Press, 1956, unpaged, 75 cents), is a series of prayers in verse form. There are prayers for all occasions. Vera Gohman's attractive two-color illustrations add to the charm of this book for kindergartners and beginning readers.

For Young People

The Maine woods are the scene for **Wilderness Warden**, by Edward C. Janes (Longmans, Green and Co., New York, 1956. 214 pages. $2.75). Dan Hubbard, just out of the Marines, is given the chance to try out as a game warden in the north Maine woods country. His job of protecting the wild life of the area is a dangerous one because of a group of lawless "jackers" who defiantly challenge Dan to stop their vicious murdering of wild game. Here is an outdoor story of the conservation of natural resources that includes all the action and excitement that goes with this important field. Nature lore and woods craft play a large part in this excellent story, written by a man who knows, both the subject and how to write.

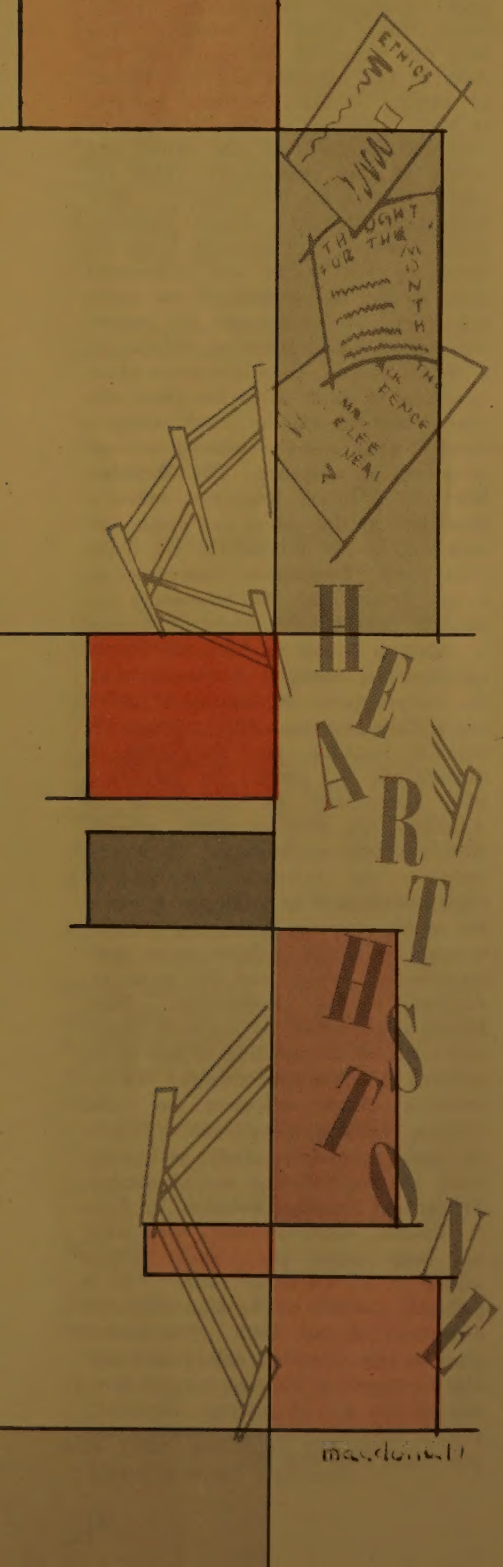
* * *

The Silver Disk, by Loring MacKaye (Longmans, Green and Co., 1956, 195 pages. $2.75), takes the reader back over 700 years to the little island of Sicily and the intrigues of trade and commerce of that time. Ottavio Bucolini, though only 17 years of age, plays a man's role with cleverness and bravery. His struggles to aid the six-year-old king of Sicily in regaining his throne are related with all the imagination and excitement that will make this vivid story one of intense interest even to modern readers unfamiliar with the middle ages and their background.

For Adults

For all who want learned help in their Bible reading a new series called *The Daily Study Bible Series* is now being made available (Westminster Press, Phila., 1957, $2.50 per volume). The first two books in the series are **The Acts of the Apostles** and **The Gospel of Mark**. William Barclay, lecturer in New Testament at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, is the editor and writer of this commentary which appeared first in his own country. Each Bible book is given a general introduction. Then it is translated from the Greek by the author and commented upon section by section. These books are meant for wide use by persons who have not had extensive training of a formal nature. Here is a series which would be of great value for those who teach, because of the fresh insights which it gives into the meaning and applications of scripture. **The Christian Man**, by William Hamilton, takes a fresh look at the nature and destiny of man, and in the process the old terms "sin" and "forgiveness" are placed in a new framework. An interesting appendix offers a brief study of Genesis 3. **Modern Rivals to Christian Faith**, by Cornelius Loew, is a discussion of the modern forms of idolatry of which many Christians are guilty, frequently without realizing it. The book is divided into two parts. The first deals with alternatives to Christianity in American life, such as money, science, democracy, and nationalism. The second considers the internal idolatries of Christianity, such as using God's power for selfish purposes, a magical attitude toward the Bible, religion as a self-improvement society, and God as an indulgent, kindly grandfather. **Life, Death, and Destiny**, by Roger L. Shinn, is a study of the meaning of life in its relation to death and eternity. An interesting chapter discusses the "Old Phrases That Still Say Something," such as death, resurrection, body, soul, judgment, heaven, hell, and second coming. **Prayer and Personal Religion**, by John B. Coburn, concerns itself with what has been called the "most baffling aspect of the Christian faith." It is probably also one of the most neglected disciplines of our faith. The author gives a very practical and understandable treatment of the meaning and practice of the art of prayer. Especially good is his consideration of prayers that you think, feel, and will.

Over the back fence



● Two Little Words

What a difference two little words of two and three letters make! They can mark the measure of growth in spiritual maturity in many areas, but especially as we think of the observance of Thanksgiving.

It is easy to give thanks for the abundant blessings which most of us enjoy. It is at this level that many people will offer whatever anthems of gratitude that they may feel like expressing. To sing, "For health and strength and daily food, we praise thy name, O Lord," will cause most of us no trouble.

Paul, in urging his churches to show forth their gratitude, uses two little words that sharply measure one's GQ (gratitude quotient). In this letter to the Thessalonians he enjoins them to "give thanks *in all circumstances.*"

When one is able to be thankful *in* any and all circumstances, he has reached a point of spiritual maturity a good long step above the conventional level. One who has reached it will find, even in most adverse circumstances, something which will arouse in him the sense of deep thanksgiving.

The apostle, also, in writing to the Ephesians, uses another little word of great significance when he wrote, "always and *for* everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father."

Here we are in the presence of a still higher level of GQ. It is evidence of the highest degree of spiritual maturity to be able to find gratitude in one's heart *for* everything. The gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to this level, and there are not overly many who find it. It means being able to thank God for one's difficulties, hardships, sufferings, and even one's cross.

It would be well for all of us to examine ourselves to discover our GQ this Thanksgiving season.

● Another Side of the Picture

Young people have been receiving much unfavorable publicity in recent years. Juvenile delinquency in many forms has been given the headlines almost to the exclusion of everything else in reporting on the activities of youth. Their general irresponsibility is perhaps the second most popular conception as people think of Today's Youth.

Perhaps it would be well to look at one other side of the picture. When school began in September, 1956, there were 1,900,000 high school students between the ages of 14 and 19 who were employed on a part-time basis, in addition to attending school. Nearly one-fourth of all students in this group were in the labor force. It is probable that 1957 witnessed an increase in these figures.

This should remind us that not all young people of this age are delinquents or irresponsibles. It should put the brakes on those who too quickly and glibly condemn the younger generation.

● "Explore with Books"

This is the slogan for Children's Book Week, being observed November 17-23. The observance is sponsored by the Children's Book Council, which conducts an annual contest for a slogan for the observance, now in its 38th year.

You who read *Hearthstone* are undoubtedly among those who want your children to enjoy the delights and benefits of good reading. At their very best, the values of radio, television, and moving pictures cannot begin to compare in permanent satisfaction to those to be found in good literature. Seek help from your library or write to Children's Book Council, 50 West 53rd Street, New York City 19, N. Y. Keep good reading handy for your family.



—*RNS*

This poster showing a family going to church will be displayed this fall and winter on thousands of billboards, car cards in subways and buses, TV, and in newspapers and magazine advertisements. The posters are part of the annual Religion in American Life campaign to increase regular attendance and support for all churches and synagogues. The program is sponsored by a laymen's committee comprising members of various faiths. It is supported by twenty-four national religious bodies with American business co-operating through the Advertising Council of America. High light of the RIAL program each year is the national "Go-to-Church" drive in November. Theme of the 1957-58 campaign is "Find the Strength for Your Life . . . Worship Together This Week."

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